
This is a reproduction of a library book that was digitized by Google as part of an ongoing effort to preserve the information in books and make it universally accessible.

GoogleTM books

<https://books.google.com>



316.982

G798

1947

GT. BRIT. COLONIAL OFFICE

Annual Report on Mauritius

1947

211.000
G798
1947

THE LIBRARY



CLASS 316.982

BOOK G798



ONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

Mauritius

1947



ON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

PRICE 3s.6d. NET

Digitized by Google

THE SERIES OF COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS which was re-introduced for the year 1946 (after suspension in 1940) is being continued with those relating to 1947.

It is anticipated that the Colonies and Protectorates for which 1947 Reports are being published will, with some additions, be the same as for the previous year (see list on cover page 3).

ANNUAL REPORT ON MAURITIUS

FOR THE YEAR

1947

Contents

		PAGE
PART I	Review of 1947	3
PART II	CHAPTER 1 Population	17
	CHAPTER 2 Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation	19
	CHAPTER 3 Public Finance and Taxation	26
	CHAPTER 4 Currency and Banking	32
	CHAPTER 5 Commerce	34
	CHAPTER 6 Production	36
	CHAPTER 7 Social Services Education	45
	Health	50
	Housing	52
	Social Welfare	53
	CHAPTER 8 Legislation	56
	CHAPTER 9 Justice, Police and Prisons	60
	CHAPTER 10 Public Utilities	68
	CHAPTER 11 Communications	73
	CHAPTER 12 Cultural Organisations	78
PART III	CHAPTER 1 Geography and Climate	84
	CHAPTER 2 History	88
	CHAPTER 3 Administration	92
	CHAPTER 4 Weights and Measures	97
	CHAPTER 5 Newspapers and Periodicals	99
	CHAPTER 6 Bibliography	101
APPENDICES	102
MAP		

LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1949



Crown Copyright Reserved

The cover illustration shows Gris Gris Headland

3116.982
G 798

PART I

Review of 1947

CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

IN the speech delivered by the Governor on 11th February, 1947, at the opening of the fifth session of the Council of Government, Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy announced his intention of not imposing on members the consideration of a large number of legislative measures, and that the work of the session would, as far as possible, be confined to consideration of the estimates and other financial matters, to development projects, minor amendments of existing laws and such legislation as would be necessary in connection with the new constitution. It was expected, and hoped, at the beginning of the year that a final decision on the new constitution would be quickly reached and that the present Council, which had already existed for eleven years, would be able to hand over to successors selected on a more representative basis the consideration of major legislative measures. The Governor, however, sounded a note of warning that a decision on constitutional reform might be protracted, when he said "at the moment I can only say that those elements of the population who take an interest in the matter appear to have agreed to disagree on all material points".

Despite the disagreements referred to by the Governor it did prove possible to reach a conclusion during 1947, although in order to do so it was necessary for the Governor to prepare and submit to the Secretary of State revised proposals for a new constitution, thereby resolving the virtual stalemate arrived at in the Consultative Committee over such major issues as universal male suffrage, votes for women and the right to vote in more than one constituency.

The Governor based his recommendations on the belief that the bulk of the people were not fully prepared for democratic institutions, and that a long process of political education through local rural and borough councils would have to be carried out before many of the potential electors were capable of exercising sound, individual judgement at the polling stations. It may be recalled here that the dense population of this small island is of varying social origin and covers a wide range of cultural, educational, economic and religious levels. The problem, therefore, was to bring the diverse elements of this heterogeneous population into the proper channels of political development without permitting unscrupulous demagogues to take advantage of an ignorant and largely illiterate electorate. To meet this situation the Governor recommended certain safeguards in the new constitution and, provided these were accepted, considered that the time had come to grant the widest possible measure of

enfranchisement on the basis of a simple literacy requirement. In concluding his despatch of 21st April to the Secretary of State he said :

" I have recently been much heartened by the reinvigoration of the Executive Council, by the greater sense of proportion shewn in matters relating to the Civil Service, by the steady, if slow, growth of village councils, by the falling out of favour amongst sober, honest men of those who have hitherto proceeded on the assumption that trade unionism and class warfare are synonymous terms and that political capacity is evidenced by libellous vituperation. I do so cordially agree that we need to adjust ourselves to a much quicker tempo of constitutional development than would have seemed practicable a few years ago and I am emboldened to place before you proposals which should, I submit, go far to satisfy the legitimate political aspirations of all classes without inducing or permitting any class or community to move precipitately toward political or economic confusion."

In a reply dated 16th August the Secretary of State accepted the Governor's recommendations which, he said, went as far as was practicable at the present stage of constitutional progress in Mauritius. He added that they were a step in the evolutionary process which should culminate in the achievement of full adult suffrage.

The Letters Patent, Royal Instructions and Order in Council dated 19th December, 1947, gave final form to these protracted discussions and endowed Mauritius with a constitution which places it far on the road towards self-government. The new constitution provides for a Government consisting of a Governor, Executive Council and Legislative Council. The Executive Council will consist of three *ex-officio* and four unofficial members, the latter being selected by the Legislative Council from among its own members. Provision is made for the appointment of additional members if required. The Legislative Council, under the presidency of the Governor, will have a large unofficial majority, as there are to be only three *ex-officio* members in a Council of 34. Of the remainder there will be 19 elected members and 12 nominated members. A very wide extension of the franchise is provided for under the relevant sections of the Order in Council. Under the constitution granted in 1885, 11,884 names were on the electoral roll on 31st December, 1946, out of a total of almost 220,000 potential electors. Under the new constitution and with the degree of literacy now pertaining it is estimated that there will be at least 80,000 registered electors in 1948. The qualifications permitting this wide extension of the franchise may be summarised as follows :

All persons, male or female, who are British subjects of 21 years of age or upwards and have been ordinarily and bona-fide resident in the Colony for a period of 2 years preceding an election, and

- (a) being ordinarily resident in some electoral district, are able to read and write simple sentences and sign their names in one of certain specified languages to the satisfaction of the Registration Officer ; or
- (b) being ordinarily resident in some electoral district, are qualified as serving in the Forces, or as ex-servicemen discharged with a certificate of satisfactory service ; or

(c) have been for 6 months previous to the date of registration owners or occupiers of business premises in an electoral district :

shall be entitled to vote. The property qualification has been abolished. No person registered as an elector may vote in respect of more than one qualification in any one electoral district, or in respect of more than two qualifications in all, and the literacy test, though simple, is to provide a reasonable test of ability to read and write. The languages in which the literacy test may be taken are English, French, Gujarati, Hindustani, Tamil, Urdu, Chinese and the Creole patois in common use in the Colony. These changes, including as they do the grant of female suffrage, constitute a very important advance in the political life of the Colony.

The delay in arriving at this conclusion necessitated extensions to the life of the present Council of Government on two occasions during 1947, the first for a period of six months from 9th July, 1947, and the second for another six months from 9th December. The second extension was rendered necessary primarily in order to give time for the passage of legislation required to bring the new constitution into effect.

SUGAR INDUSTRY

In the speech to Council on 11th February the Governor referred to the production drive in the sugar industry and paid tribute to the value of the Sugarcane Research Station to the Colony. Over 75 per cent of the canes grown in Mauritius have been developed in this research station and it has brought greatly increased revenues to the sugar industry. Thanks to a good growing season and the absence of cyclones the 1947 crop proved to be the highest on record, 350,000 tons of sugar having been produced from less than 150,000 acres of cane-land.

The indebtedness of the sugar industry has given cause for concern for many years, and as the economics of the industry have been obscure the annual discussions on the price to be paid for the crop have led to assertion and counter-assertion and to long hours of argument about prices, costs, profits and indebtedness. To bring light into this obscurity, His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom agreed early in 1947 to find part of the personnel of a Commission of Enquiry. It was subsequently decided to extend the scope of the enquiry, and to secure a common approach to the problem by setting up a Working Party composed both of overseas experts and of representatives of local employers and employees.

The terms of reference of this working party, announced to the Council of Government on 26th August, were

" Bearing in mind the supreme importance of the Sugar Industry in the economy of Mauritius, to study possible means of improving the organisation, processing, production and distribution methods of the industry ; to report on steps which could be taken in the interest of the country to strengthen it and render it more able to survive in competitive conditions ; and to consider generally any consequential action which may be necessary in view of the effects of such measures on the general economy of the Colony or to supplement measures for the improvement of the Sugar Industry by strengthening other aspects of that economy."

The overseas members of the Mauritius Economic Commission, as it has come to be called locally, consist of the Chairman (Mr. J. H. Gorvin, C.B.E., of the Home Civil Service), a sugar agronomist, an engineer and an accountant; they arrived in the Colony in October. The Commission's work has in fact amounted to an investigation of the whole economic structure of the Colony. It is expected that its report will be presented during 1948.

SECONDARY INDUSTRIES

Two secondary industries which are at the cross-roads to-day are the tea and fibre industries. Each is well established and could make an important contribution to the well-being of the Colony, but each will need careful attention before its future development can be well assured. Comprehensive plans for the development of the tea industry were drawn up late in 1946 by a visiting expert, Capt. E. G. B. de Mowbray, C.B.E., R.N. (retd.), and are now being put into effect. The aloe fibre industry is one step behind. Before 1942 fibre was produced for export, but since that date the total island production has been absorbed by the Government Sack Factory for the manufacture of sugar bags and filter-press cloth for the sugar industry. Production has varied from a maximum of 2,577 tons exported in 1926 to a minimum of 416 tons in 1932, and is now in the region of 900 tons. So far there has been exploitation only of wild aloes growing on scrub land, but if the industry is to produce enough bags to meet the full needs of the sugar industry it will probably be necessary for the aloe plant to be cultivated on a plantation basis, for new decorticating machinery to be introduced and for adequate electric power and water to be supplied. During the year two expert advisers visited the Colony to do for the fibre industry what Captain de Mowbray had done for tea. Reference to this visit is made in the section of this report dealing with Development and Welfare.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

"The development of the resources of Mauritius depends for its success upon a proper relation between those who own property in land and those who depend for their living on the wages of labour." This remark by the Governor prefaced a statement made by him in Council that the law and machinery affecting industrial relations would be modernised still more during 1947. The promise was carried out by the passage of bills dealing with workmen's compensation, labour exchanges, and a recodification of the law on trades disputes, bringing Mauritian trade dispute law into line with English law. Comprehensive bills on the registration of trade unions and on wages councils were under consideration both here and in London, but had not become law by the end of 1947. A list of trade unions, presented to Council on 1st November, revealed that there were 31 in existence at that date with a total estimated membership of 22,208. There was only one major stoppage of work as a result of an industrial dispute during the year. A strike of agricultural labourers was called in October while a Conciliation Board was still examining the

demands which had been put forward on behalf of the labourers. The number of strikers never exceeded 25 per cent of the labour force involved and after 10 days the strike was called off and a compromise agreement reached. Numerous other disputes were resolved by use of the machinery of conciliation and arbitration which has been provided for just that purpose. The Industrial Court did much useful work in a quiet and unassuming fashion to preserve and promote harmony between management and labour.

HEALTH SERVICES

Steady progress is being made in the realisation of the health plans prepared some years ago, though the lack of trained personnel and shortage of supplies is dictating a pace which is slower than had been anticipated. Extensions were made to two existing hospitals in 1947; a dental clinic designed on modern lines was opened in Port Louis and 7,031 patients were treated by the end of the year; the first of a fleet of mobile dispensaries has been on the road since October. The assault on malaria has continued and, in addition to routine maintenance work throughout the island, further experiments in the use of D.D.T. and paludrine were carried out in the Black River area, the most malarious part of the Colony.

In the battle against malaria the new weapons of paludrine and D.D.T. have been used side by side with such well-tried means as the canalisation of rivers, draining of swamps and destruction of mosquito breeding places. In 1948, on the initiative of the Colonial Insecticides Committee, Mauritius will become the subject of the first really large-scale experiment in the eradication of malaria by the use of insecticides. The main lines of the experiment were agreed upon in 1947, and it is hoped to start operations in the autumn of 1948. The results of this experiment may be of major importance, not only to this Colony, but to all those parts of the world which suffer from the scourge of malaria.

CONTROL OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS

Closely allied to the improvement of the health service is the question of liquor control. During the war years alcoholism had shown a remarkable and unwelcome increase, particularly amongst wage-earners, and it became necessary to introduce strict limitation and control. Legislative and administrative measures to this end became effective on 1st January, 1947. The Liquor Licensing Board made an initial reduction in the number of retailers' (on and off) licences from 1,349 to 917 and of wholesalers' from 35 to 21. These and other measures aroused considerable opposition from interested parties, but the policy, which had been given clear and widespread publicity for a considerable period before the date on which it was put into effect, was maintained. In March the maximum quantity of rum for local consumption was limited to 1,000,000 litres at 50 Gay Lussac. This represented a cut of 33½ per cent. The times of sale of liquor were also restricted. In August the report of a Select Committee on rum and other liquor was presented to the Council of Government. It confirmed the limitation imposed on local sales and

recommended the setting up of a Committee of Enquiry to investigate all aspects of the local wine industry. Pending the results of this enquiry, the maximum annual production of local wine was to be fixed at the 1946 figure.

EDUCATION

In the sphere of education the main emphasis has been placed on turning out more and better qualified teachers through the Teachers' Training College. Compulsory education cannot be made effective until there are sufficient schools and sufficient teachers to staff them. A system of formal annual inspections of all primary schools was introduced in January. The staff of the Training College was augmented during the year by the arrival of handicrafts, physical training and art tutors, and work begun on the Colony's first Handicrafts and Homecrafts Centre was nearing completion by the end of the year. The school meals experiment was continued in 1947 and reviewed by the Nutrition Officer shortly after her arrival. Stress was placed on the necessity of raising the dental health of the schoolchildren. The Education Department launched a Cleaner Teeth Campaign and provided 40,000 tooth brushes at less than half the price of the cheapest brush on the open market. Visual education was developed in collaboration with the Public Relations Office, and a full-time education officer placed in charge of this work. For the first time in the history of Mauritius a school holiday camp was run during August and September. The venture proved so successful that plans have been made to repeat it on a larger scale next year.

At the opening meeting of the Council of Government the Governor announced that he proposed to have a review made of secondary education in Mauritius. It had become increasingly evident in recent years that an expert investigation of this nature was urgently needed. Mr. A. E. Nichols, C.B.E., Headmaster of Hele's School, Exeter, and President of the Incorporated Association of Headmasters, was accordingly invited to visit Mauritius and did so during September and October. His report, which deals with the whole field of post-primary education in Mauritius, was still under consideration at the end of the year.

NUTRITION

During 1947 an attempt was made to draw up yearly balance-sheets of the island's food supplies, showing what food is available for consumption, how far it is adequate, and how the deficiencies can best be made up. This has shown that the main gaps in food supplies are in animal foods including milk, in pulses and, to a lesser extent, in cereals and oils. The consumption of sugar, supplying energy only, is very high.

To provide an adequate diet for everyone a target has been set for food supplies based, not on pre-war consumption, but on nutritional need. How far a plan of this kind can be realised depends largely on the world food position, but the first step has been taken. We know what we need, and have gone some way towards obtaining some of it, and meanwhile priority is being given to concentrated foods to fill the most urgent gaps,

i.e., dried fish, processed milk and yeast, the imports of which have been increased.

Considerable emphasis was placed by the Nutrition Officer on the long-term value of proper feeding of the children. The cooked school meal experiment in the Grand Port area begun in 1946 was continued this year and the nutritional value of the meal increased by the addition of fresh fish and groundnuts daily. It is estimated that the extension of this hot-meal service to all schoolchildren would involve an expenditure of Rs. 5,000,000 a year, a sum likely to prove prohibitive in relation to the total allocation available for education in Mauritius. As a possible alternative a "snack" meal, designed to supply nutrients lacking in the child's normal diet, is also being tried. This snack, consisting of milk, biscuits and yeast tablets, is given daily to 1,000 schoolchildren and it is proposed to extend the experiment in 1948.

A medical examination of children in orphanages, made in 1947, showed that many were underfed. The Government grant for the feeding of inmates of Poor Law Institutions, both adult and children, was consequently increased, and courses of lectures and demonstrations in simple nutrition and cookery were given to those in charge of catering. Lectures in practical nutrition were also given to various groups of the general public and an intensive survey of food consumption was carried out in a village in the Black River area.

LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION

Early in 1947 a Food Production Board was set up to stimulate local production of vegetables, maize and root crops. Shortly afterwards a special committee was appointed to devise means of making the Colony as self-sufficient as possible in edible oils. This committee recommended the large-scale plantation of groundnuts on a voluntary basis by planters and their recommendation was approved. Government assistance was provided in the form of a subsidy calculated on acreage and a guaranteed minimum price for dried nuts. To launch the scheme properly a supply of seed groundnuts was obtained from the Government of Uganda and sold to planters at cost price. The target aimed at by the Groundnut Committee and the Food Production Board is between 6,000 and 8,000 acres under cultivation, giving a yield of 4,000 tons of nuts and 1,000 tons of oil. If this target can be reached the groundnut campaign should produce one-third of the Colony's normal requirements in edible oil.

During its first year's existence the Board did much to stimulate local food production to meet immediate needs. As part of its long-term policy it is now considering the question of land utilisation and land tenure with the aim of ensuring that the best use is made of the cultivable land of the Colony.

LAND UTILISATION

The steadily increasing population pressure is making the proper utilisation of land a problem to which priority attention must be given. During 1947 much thought was given to this question and expert advice

was incidentally obtained from Professor Thornton White of Cape-town University who visited the island in connection with town planning. Details of his visits are given in the section dealing with Development and Welfare. A land utilisation map has been prepared for the Economic Commission, which is also paying close attention to this question. The newly-appointed Land Settlement Officer arrived early in 1947 and his report was almost ready for submission by the end of the year. An aerial survey of the island was attempted in October but, owing to heavy cloud formations, only partial success was achieved and arrangements have been made to complete the survey in May, 1948. The Ex-Servicemen's Committee have launched an interesting land settlement experiment at Montebello, between Port Louis and Le Reduit. A group of ex-servicemen have been provided with houses and implements on a "collective farm" and are being subsidised from the Committee's funds until they can establish themselves. Mixed farming is being undertaken and the group is running a poultry farm also on scientific lines. The results of this experiment, which promises well, are being closely watched.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The administration is doing all in its power to promote an interest in local government in rural areas, and to encourage the setting up of bodies, such as village councils, which will provide not only platforms for local opinion but also training grounds for potential administrators. A Civil Commissioner for the southern districts was appointed in 1946, and in March, 1947, Colonel R. E. S. Yeldham, C.B.E., assumed the post of Civil Commissioner for the North. A third post was provided for in the 1947-48 estimates but had not been filled by the end of the year. By the end of 1947 over 40 village councils were in existence. The Civil Commissioners showed the way, but the initiative in every case was taken by the villagers themselves. Suggestions that village councils should be compulsorily set up in all villages possessing a certain minimum population have been resisted, and it has been emphasised that these local government bodies must be spontaneous in their development as it is only on such a foundation that sound growth can be assured.

Referring to the establishment of Civil Commissioners in Mauritius, the Governor said :

"The people will in time come to realise that these officers are placed to live among them as guides and friends ; that they are always accessible, that they are a personal link between the Governor and the people and form yet another channel by which factual information is passed to the Governor regarding the conditions in the districts, with suggestions as to how evils can be remedied. Then it may be that we shall see real progress towards the removal of grievances, fancied or real, and the elimination of the dishonest, the irresponsible and the subversive. The interest in public affairs of sober and responsible men will be quickened, the establishment of local government will be hastened in areas which have at the moment no proper guidance, the diverse activities of departments will be co-ordinated to give effect to the Governor's policy and deputies will have in their constituencies men whose task it is to perform the administrative duties which are at present imperfectly performed or not performed at all."

PUBLIC RELATIONS

To develop and strengthen the relations between the Government and people of this Colony a Public Relations section of the Central Administration was set up in 1946 and the substantive Public Relations Officer returned to the Colony in February, 1947, to assume his duties. He has control over all publicity services, including the Mauritius Broadcasting Service, the News Service which monitors and distributes Reuter's world news daily and the Mobile Cinema Unit. The Broadcasting Service was reorganised in 1947, a powerful medium-wave transmitter installed and new studios constructed. The service broadcasts four transmissions daily, with a total of six hours' broadcasting time. Plans have been prepared for its extension by means of community listening in rural districts and educational broadcasts to schools.

Great importance is attached to ensuring that an objective and comprehensive flow of world news is made available for the people of Mauritius. The Reuter News Service is attempting to meet this objective by monitoring Reuter's news from Rugby on a 24-hour basis. Copies of the news are cyclostyled and distributed to the local press (which now depends entirely on this source for its world news), the radio station, all Government Departments and H.M. Forces in Mauritius.

The Mobile Cinema Unit, a generous gift from the war-time Ministry of Information, is providing a valuable instrument of education and publicity in remote rural areas where social amenities are as yet little developed. Despite petrol restrictions the Unit gave 240 shows during 1947 to an estimated total audience of 427,952—a figure almost identical with that of the population of Mauritius. Urban areas possessing commercial cinemas and other amenities were avoided as much as possible and the itinerary followed aimed at quarterly visits to villages and hamlets in outlying parts of the island.

Close liaison is maintained between the Public Relations Office and the press and, on the whole, cordial relations exist. The press is usually ready to provide space for official communiques, even at short notice, and it publishes a considerable number of these each year without charge. Much of the time of the head office Public Relations staff is taken up in supplying information to members of the public who pose a bewildering variety of questions, some on topics having only the remotest connection with administrative affairs.

CO-OPERATION IN MAURITIUS

The co-operative society movement, already well established in Mauritius in the form of co-operative credit societies, was further developed this year by the opening of a number of co-operative retail stores. This movement has seized the popular imagination—probably in part a reaction to the privileged war-time position of the retailer—and requests from groups of consumers eager to form co-operatives are being received by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies from all parts of the island. As this form of co-operation demands a high degree of integrity and social

consciousness on the part of the managing committees the Registrar is restricting registration to those groups of whose good faith he has entirely satisfied himself. Meanwhile emphasis is being placed on sound education in co-operative principles. The movement is, as may be expected, none too popular amongst the established retailers, but much good is expected to come from it and it is receiving full Government support.

Before 1947 the co-operative credit section formed part of the Department of Agriculture. It has now been transferred to Central Administration and placed under the charge of a full-time Registrar. The officer selected for this post was absent from the Colony during the greater part of 1947, on leave in the United Kingdom and on mission to Cyprus. The Colony was, however, fortunate in having Mr. W. K. H. Campbell, C.M.G., present in the Colony, and he consented to act as Registrar during his stay here. It was largely due to his guidance that the co-operative store movement was successfully launched.

GOVERNMENT FIRE SERVICES

For defence purposes the existing municipal and township fire brigades were amalgamated during the war. On 1st July, 1947, the Fire Brigade of Port Louis was handed back to the Municipality together with all its vehicles, pumps and equipment, but Government retained control over four fire stations in the up-country districts. These are the nucleus of the Government Fire Services which are gradually to be extended so as to cover efficiently all parts of the island.

The first six months during which the new service has operated have clearly justified the necessity for an Island Fire Service. The period was one of acute drought and the Brigade was constantly in action. In all, 60 calls were attended to, involving a total mileage of 7,373 miles. In the majority of cases the Brigade was able either to put out the conflagration or to prevent its spread. There were major fires on three estates and the prompt action of the Brigade enabled important plantations of sugarcane and tobacco to be saved from destruction.

The Brigade, which is under the general supervision and control of the Commissioner of Police, consists of a Chief Officer, eleven subordinate officers and sixty men.

DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE

Many of the subjects dealt with in the preceding paragraphs have a Development and Welfare aspect as well as forming part of the general administration, and in practice it has been found impracticable to draw a hard-and-fast dividing line in this report between the two aspects. There is bound in consequence to be a certain amount of overlapping and repetition.

Public Works

Progress on most of the major Development and Welfare schemes has been held up by the world-wide shortage of materials, plant and technical staff. A reasonably good start has been made by the Public Works Depart-

ment with such material as was available, but the full implementation of the ten-year programme will require more staff for the planning and supervision of major schemes, more plant and above all an adequate supply of building materials.

(a) *Irrigation and Water Supply.* The construction of a 220-million-cubic-feet reservoir at Mare Longue is making good progress. Preliminary clearing works have been completed, the main feeding river has been diverted through a culvert under the earth embankment dam and partial storage of water has been started. The dam has already absorbed 1,000,000 cubic feet of earth out of a total of 7,000,000 cubic feet required to complete it.

A commemorative stone to mark the completion of the culvert was laid by the Governor on 16th April, 1947, in the presence of a large and representative gathering. The Mare Longue system will serve the double purpose of ensuring a supply of water for domestic consumers and for hydro-electric purposes, after which the same water will be used for irrigation. Linked to this scheme is the building of another subsidiary reservoir at Tamarin Falls by the General Electric Supply Company Limited.

(b) *Midlands-Nicolière Canal.* The Government irrigation scheme in the North (Midlands-Nicolière System) is to a large extent dependent on a 17-mile-long feeder canal. Considerable losses of water have occurred along this feeder canal, so funds provided in the Development and Welfare Estimates have been utilised to line the canal with concrete. The work is nearing completion with very satisfactory results in the carrying capacity of the canal and losses have been cut down to normal.

(c) *Domestic Water Supplies.* A start has been made with improvements to domestic water supplies in the north (Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart districts). The first of a series of reinforced concrete service reservoirs is in course of construction at Goodlands. The extension of the Mare-aux-Vacoas to La Marie Conduit is 75 per cent complete, and half the length of a new main from the filter-beds to Curepipe town has been laid.

(d) *Buildings.* The construction of a dental clinic at the Civil Hospital, Port Louis, of a new female ward at the Mental Hospital and of a new ward and ancillary works in the Civil Hospital was undertaken this year and the construction of a slaughter-house in Flacq was continued.

(e) *Roads.* The bitumen treatment of more than 13 miles of water-bound roads was carried out in the northern, Black River, Moka and Grand Port Districts. The construction of a new road from Curepipe to Quartier Militaire was started, but progress has been slow owing to transport difficulties and shortage of plant. The completion of this road will result in a saving of about seven miles for traffic proceeding from Upper Plaines Wilhems to Flacq and will ease the congestion on the existing roads. The track of the new road is through a very healthy region which may eventually be used for first-class housing sites. The ten-year plan provides for the tarring of 200 miles of roads.

(f) *Sewerage.* Dr. E. J. Hamlin, D.Sc., F.R.S. (S.A.), a chartered

civil engineer and sewerage expert from South Africa, visited Mauritius in March, 1947, and reported on the engineering aspect of sewage disposal in the Plaines Wilhems district and on the existing and proposed filtration plants for domestic water supplies. He has advised that the whole of Plaines Wilhems should be provided with a single sewerage and sewage-disposal installation and that the existing filtering plant should be enlarged and modernised. His recommendations were accepted in principle by the Council of Government on 23rd December and, as the works in question are likely to be very costly, he has been invited to return to the Colony to discuss with the Director of Public Works a five-year plan of action. Great importance is attached to the replacement of the present inadequate and offensive system of night soil disposal in the Curepipe area by an efficient and acceptable system.

Town and Country Planning

Professor L. W. Thornton-White, F.R.I.B.A., M.I.A., who was engaged to advise on the town and country planning of the Colony, paid his first visit in February, 1947. The object of this visit was to make a preliminary survey and to collect data for the preparation of master plans for the town of Port Louis and the district of Plaines Wilhems.

He returned to the Colony in September, 1947, accompanied by Mr. Leo Silberman, of the Department of Social Science, University of Liverpool. While Professor Thornton-White was engaged on collecting further physical data for his master plan, Mr. Silberman made a social survey of the town of Port Louis. Professor Thornton-White is expected to complete the master plan for Port Louis during his third visit in January, 1948. He has also prepared lay-out designs for a model school and for improved housing on estate camps and is working on designs for the new Training College at Côte d'Or.

Mauritius-Seychelles Fisheries Survey

Dr. J. F. G. Wheeler, Marine Biologist, returned to the United Kingdom in 1946 from a preliminary visit to Mauritius, in order to supervise the refitting of the Motor Fishing Vessel *Cumulus*. In February, 1947, he was appointed Director of the Mauritius-Seychelles Fisheries Survey for a period of two years. He preceded to the Seychelles in June to recruit a crew for the research vessel.

After refitting and preliminary trials the *Cumulus*, which was renamed "Motor Fishing Research Vessel No. 1", sailed for Seychelles and arrived there on 24th December. She will proceed to Mauritius in April or May, 1948, after the monsoon season.

This vessel is fully equipped for research work which is to be carried out by a team of scientists engaged for that purpose. It is estimated that it will take two years to complete the survey of the Mauritius-Seychelles area. The cost of the experiment is covered by a grant from the Colonial Development and Welfare Research Fund.

Dr. F. D. Ommañney, Ph.D. (London), who served under the Discovery Committee from 1929 to 1946 and was subsequently on the staff

of the British Council, was appointed to assist Dr. Wheeler in his research work. Dr. Ommanney visited Mauritius from June to December and made biometric observations here before proceeding to Seychelles to join Dr. Wheeler and the other members of the scientific staff of the M.F.R.V. No. 1.

On the scientific investigation now being undertaken will largely depend the extent of future development of deep-sea fishing in the Mauritius-Seychelles area. It is too early to estimate possibilities, but it is significant that the attention of investors both in the Union of South Africa and in Mauritius has been turned in this direction.

The Fibre Industry

Reference was made in the section dealing with secondary industries to the visit of two expert advisers to make a thorough investigation into the present position of the fibre industry and into its possibilities of expansion. The services of Mr. Lock were lent to the Colony by the Government of Tanganyika and those of Mr. P. W. Q. Lees by the engineering firm of Messrs. Robey & Co., Ltd. Mr. Lees has already reported on the engineering and mechanical problems of the industry and the recommendations of Mr. Lock on the agricultural aspect and on the general economics of the industry were awaited at the end of the year.

A complete reorganisation of field methods and a strengthening of factories by the installation of new decorticating machines and power plants will probably be found necessary before the industry can take its proper place in local production.

Land Settlement

The Government of Mauritius has for some time been considering the launching of a land settlement scheme to bring back to the land a large proportion of that part of the population which has been too long divorced from agricultural work, to alleviate unemployment, increase the food production of the Colony, and reduce urban overcrowding.

Before the launching of such a scheme it was essential that a careful investigation should be made by an experienced land settlement officer. With that end in view Mr. Bett was seconded from the Home Civil Service for a period of three years. He arrived in Mauritius in April, 1947, and has since then been engaged in surveying the different aspects of the problem.

Scholarships

Since the passing of the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts of 1940 and 1945, the recruitment of officers for higher appointment from amongst the junior members of the local Civil Service has been facilitated by the granting of scholarships which are awarded both under the centrally administered Colonial Development and Welfare £1,000,000 Scheme and under the Mauritius Development and Welfare allocation. Fifteen such scholarships have been awarded since 1943. Five of the scholars have already been trained in the United Kingdom and ten are still undergoing

training. Further recommendations have been made for the next academic year.

The development of social welfare services has had first priority and the following posts have already been filled by Mauritian officers: Assistant Public Assistance Commissioner, Probation Officer and two Welfare Officers. A member of the Public Works Department staff has been trained in town planning and is now acting as Assistant Architect in the Architectural Branch of the Development and Welfare organisation.

Other scholars are being trained in physiotherapy, occupational therapy, civil engineering, social services and education.

CONCLUSION

The increased interest taken recently by the people of Great Britain in colonial affairs is matched by a fresh impetus in colonial administration. Social, economic and political progress is probably more rapid now than at any previous stage in the history of the Colonies. The establishment of such bodies as the Colonial Development Corporation and the Overseas Food Corporation has shown that good intentions are being translated into action. It is clear that the days of haphazard development and of a *laissez-faire* attitude on the part of the administration are past and that a planned economy is now needed to ensure the greatest good to the greatest number. Political advancement, economic development and progress in the social welfare services must all go hand-in-hand. The political growth of this Colony has been taken care of during the last year; the emphasis in the immediate future must be on economic and social advancement. This section of the annual report may fittingly be concluded in the words used by the Governor when he addressed the Secretary of State on the revision of the constitution:

"I have always believed that the root causes of discontent in this insulated community are economic and not political, and I have not ceased to hope for the emergence of a movement directed rather to the improvement of social and economic conditions than to the emphasising of communal or class differences. Good crops, good prices, good wages and cheap food would go far to assuage the present discontents."

PART II

Chapter I : Population

THE principal channels through which the population of Mauritius has been constituted gradually in the course of time are :

- (1) the French immigrant ;
- (2) the slave population, principally of African origin ;
- (3) the Chinese trader ;
- (4) the Indian immigrant or Indian merchant ;
- (5) the British official, merchant or planter ; to which might be added minor influxes from Madagascar and Ceylon.

As a result, it has come to be necessary, for statistical purposes, to divide the whole population broadly into three ethnological classes : (1) the general population, which comprises Europeans and descendants of Europeans, and people of African and mixed origins ; (2) the Indian population proper, which is made up of Indian immigrants and their more or less unmixed descendants ; and (3) the Chinese population, which consists of immigrants from China and their descendants. Of these three broad divisions or classes the Indian certainly constitutes the largest fraction of the total population—at present 63 per cent. This Indian population consists of two main groups, Hindus and Muslims, in the ratio of about 3·5 to 1. The Chinese are the least numerous in Mauritius, constituting about 2½ per cent only of the total population. The great majority of the Chinese have been in the past and are still to the present day engaged in retail trade.

The total population of the Island of Mauritius adds up in round numbers to 430,000, not counting the 14,000 inhabitants of neighbouring islands which are dependencies of Mauritius. The population has been steadily increasing during the last fifteen years at an average rate of 2,000 per annum or by nearly 5 persons per thousand of population. Since the Census of 1944 the excess of births over deaths shows an average natural increase of about 3,500 persons per annum. The density of population in different parts of this small island, covering barely 720 square miles, is very variable. In the low-lying western district, there are little more than 100 persons to the square mile ; but on the central plateau, to which people have migrated, the density is now more than 1,500 persons to the square mile. In towns, the overcrowding is much more marked : in the capital, Port Louis, recent census enumeration has revealed the existence of 27,000 persons within a single square mile ; while in the next largest town, Curepipe, the number of inhabitants

per unit area has increased by 40 per cent in the last 13 years. Thirty-seven per cent of the total population at present lives in towns.

SEX DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION

One noteworthy feature of ethnical significance differentiating the two larger classes of the population, viz. the general and the Indian, is to be found in the sex distribution; whereas in the general population the proportion of females has always been somewhat greater, although the male births have always been slightly more numerous; in the Indian males predominate to a similar extent and the feature has been noteworthy for the past 25 years.

The disproportion in numbers between the sexes in Mauritius is of long standing and was due in the beginning to the preponderance of male immigration. The disproportion has been gradually readjusting itself by a natural process in the course of the past hundred years or more, though it is still noticeable to a certain degree in the Indian section of the population. There are, however, definite indications from the results of the 1944 Census that, after the age of 50, the survival of the female in the general population is greater than that of the male. In the Indian population it is after the age of 60 that the survival of the female is conspicuously greater than that of the male.

BIRTH-RATES

The birth-rates in the general population during the past decade showed at first a decrease from an average of about 36 per thousand in 1936 to about 32 per thousand in 1945 and 33.5 per thousand in 1946, but have risen again this year (1947) to the figure of 36.9 per thousand. The birth-rate has recently increased very markedly in the Indian population: in 1943 it was 33 per thousand, in 1944 it rose to 50.6 per thousand, the highest level on record; in 1945 and 1946 it stayed at about 42 per thousand; and in 1947 it was 47.7 per thousand.

DEATH-RATES

The death-rate, which was at a previous ten-year average level of 28.3 per thousand for the whole population, increased to 36.1 per thousand in 1945, the year of two severe cyclones. The previous records show 25.9 per thousand in 1943 and 27.1 per thousand in 1944. In 1946 it was 29.5 per thousand. This year the rate has dropped to 17.5 per thousand for the general population and 21.6 per thousand for the Indian section. Death-rate as a rule is markedly higher in the Indian population, and the mortality within the community is appreciably higher among the males than among the females, usually to the extent of 10 per cent and occasionally 15 per cent. Infantile mortality is comparatively high in Mauritius; it oscillates around 150 per thousand live births, but in 1945 it reached the very high figure of 188 per thousand. The rate for 1942 was 141.6 per thousand and for 1946 145.4 per thousand. In 1947 it has dropped to 113.9 per thousand.

The census of 1944 revealed that about 35 per cent of the marriageable persons of both sexes in the general population were married according to either civil or religious rites. In the Indian population the percentage is 50.

WORKERS AND SCHOOLCHILDREN

The number of workers, excluding intellectuals and professionals, is, in round numbers, 135,000. The ratio of agricultural workers to this total is 52 per cent. In the sugar industry the number of workers is estimated to be 61,000, of which 11 per cent are employed on a monthly basis and the remainder are daily paid workers. There are about 14,000 small planters engaged on cultivating their own plots.

As regards the educational status of the population, it is significant that nearly 52,000 pupils were on the roll of public and private schools in 1946, but the average attendance was only 70 per cent of this figure. The census enumeration disclosed that 45 per cent of either sex of the general population could read and write. For Indians the corresponding percentages were 21 for the males and about 6 for the females.

RELIGIONS

Religious creeds in Mauritius follow closely the classification of the population for census purposes. Practically 98 per cent of the general population are Christians belonging to the Roman Catholic faith or to the Church of England; 77 per cent of the Indians are Hindu, 22 per cent are Mahomedans and the remainder are christianised Indians. The Chinese are almost exclusively Buddhists.

Chapter 2 : Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Before the Suez Canal was opened, a governor of Mauritius could point out with satisfaction that the Colony had not contented itself with being a refuelling and revictualling station on the long voyage between Europe and the East, but had a "second string to its bow" in a flourishing sugar industry. Since that day, the prosperity of Mauritius as a port of call has practically vanished, and it has had to rely almost entirely on its second string. It is no longer on the main sea-route; and modern ships can cover much greater distances than could the old sailing vessels and rarely need to replenish their stores at Port Louis. Furthermore, a single power-driven steel ship can hold as much cargo as many sailing vessels, and Port Louis harbour, which was once a forest of masts and in

which could be counted as many as one hundred and eighty foreign-going ships (one was once captained by Joseph Conrad), now can scarcely number half a dozen when the port is busy.

In those days the ship-repairers, ship-builders, riggers, canvas-sewers, rope-makers, ship-chandlers and their assistants were kept very busy, and there was plenty of employment for those who had the skill. It may be that even now there are more youths still being trained to carpentry than the island actually requires; training is handed down from father to son, and may continue even when the economic need no longer exists.

THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

The sugar industry is now the main source of employment. It has steadily developed from an export figure of 500 tons in 1812 to a maximum production of 350,000 tons in 1947. The factories for crushing the cane and extracting the sugar run for only four or five months of the year. During the rest of the year the factory is dismantled and put in good shape by a crew of artisans, but those who are machine-minders when the factory is working mostly return to the fields for the intercrop. It is in the fields that the bulk of the labour is employed, planting, weeding, clearing boulders, spreading manure, ditching and, during the crop season, cutting the canes and loading them on the portable railway trucks or lorries.

The commonest tool is a hoe, or a heavy knife during the crop, but the women often carry small sickles to cut high weeds or grass. Apart from trucks and lorries, ploughs, tractors and bulldozers are being introduced as fast as they can be obtained. The planters maintain that this kind of machinery does not reduce the need for labour, because in fact it enables a larger area to be planted, with consequent increase in weeding, etc. The workers, however, reply that the extra work is for women and children only. Certainly unemployment existed at certain periods of the year or during crises of the weather even before machinery had been introduced on any large scale, so it is not possible yet to state with certainty that machinery is causing more unemployment than before.

SUGAR CANE FIELD LABOUR

Field work requires a certain amount of knowledge and skill, and a shop-clerk or docker could not be expected to do such work without preparation. But as the majority of families in Mauritius are engaged in this work, and as the children learn to handle the hoe at an early age, it may be said that the average Indo-Mauritian manual labourer can undertake field work without difficulty, even though he may be actually employed on concrete-mixing or milk-selling. Except in the case of time-work, the hours of work are usually less than eight, varying between four and six per day. Work is then paid by the piece or by the task. The employer would much prefer to see the worker continue to earn money by working the full eight hours, but the latter is rarely willing to do so, complaining that he is too tired and would not be fit for work the next day. A more probable reason is that he is afraid of working himself

(or his fellow-workers) out of a job. Rates of pay vary widely according to the nature of the work and the season of the year, but minimum rates have been fixed in detail. A full efficient day-labourer engaged on certain works has a minimum earning of Rs. 2.40. Women, young persons and children (minimum age 12 years for agriculture) have a lesser minimum. During the crop season a labourer may earn three, four or five rupees per day.

SUGAR FACTORY LABOUR

Factory artisans earn considerably more than agricultural labourers, except during the crop. Their union, the Technical and Engineering Workers, negotiated an agreement with the employers during the first half of the year, and a settlement was reached which has been carefully observed. General rates for artisans are as follows :

Carpenters	. Rs. 4 to Rs. 4.50 per day.
Masons	. Rs. 3 to Rs. 4.00 per day.
Mechanics	. Rs. 15 to Rs. 35.00 per week according to grade.
Painters	. Rs. 4 to Rs. 4.50 per day.
Electricians	. Rs. 80 to Rs. 130.00 per month.

Wages for dockers were also negotiated by their union, and on days when work is available, four or five rupees can be earned.

GOVERNMENT LABOUR

The Government of Mauritius is the next largest single employer after the sugar industry (though it employs scarcely one-sixth of the sugar industry's sixty thousand workers), and it has a minimum basic rate of one rupee per day, plus a cost-of-living bonus of 115 per cent for the lowest paid workers.

White-collar workers are usually paid by the month and may expect from Rs. 80 upward. A Special Grade Government Clerk receives Rs. 5,600 per annum at the top of his grade, plus cost-of-living bonus and eventual pension.

DOMESTIC SERVANTS

Wages for domestic servants may vary from Rs. 10 per month for a girl learning the work to Rs. 50 or Rs. 60 per month for a good cook. Houses for the middle classes have been built with no attempt to economise domestic service, and consequently it is often necessary to keep at least three servants, exclusive of gardener and chauffeur.

HOURS OF WORK

Government office hours are from 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. with half an hour's break for lunch, and business offices follow more or less the same hours. Factory workers usually have an eight-hour day, which is the period fixed by law before overtime begins. Domestic servants arrive before breakfast, take the afternoon off, and are usually released immediately after an early evening meal. Shop clerks have their hours of work

legally limited to 54 per week, but shops can remain open every weekday from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., except for one half-day, and on Sunday till noon.

EMPLOYMENT IN OTHER TRADES

The retail shopping trade, a great deal of it in the hands of the Chinese, has between ten and twenty thousand employees. Tobacco, tea, aloes and fruit-growing employ a varying number of workers, who are more or less interchangeable with sugar-industry workers. There are several hundred fishermen who lead a hand-to-mouth existence on the coast. Garages and workshops exist in sufficient numbers to cater for the few thousand motor-vehicles on the island. There are some scores of female workers employed in tobacco, match, sack and sweet factories. The number of ocean-going Mauritian sailors is limited to a handful.

COST OF LIVING

The cost of living varies considerably according to whether one lives on an Asiatic or European standard, and whether one is Mauritian or not. The cost is highest for a non-Mauritian on a European standard. Rent for a bungalow made of wood is likely to be between Rs. 100 and Rs. 150 per month and servants cost about the same. Food and drink for two persons amount to about Rs. 300 per month. All these items would be markedly less for a Mauritian, who knows where to go and what to pay. On the other hand, it has been found that an agricultural labourer and family spend about Rs. 80 per month, mostly on food and clothing. A warm climate and a small island reduce outlay on fuel and transport.

Cost of Living Indices

In 1938-39 most articles of food were at comparatively low price levels; rice, for instance, which was the staple food of the population, was at 65 per cent of its 1914 price-level; the cost of a good many other articles of food figured between 55 per cent and 75 per cent of the 1914 level; the others were only very slightly higher. Articles of clothing were on the average reckoned at 10 per cent above the 1914 level. With the advent of war, prices naturally rose, very gradually at first and more rapidly afterwards. The following table, where the indices are given for the first and last quarters, shows the trend up to the end of 1942:

	1939	1940	1941	1942
Food . . .	100	117-131	139-175	180-202
Clothing . . .	100	117-135	136-169	175-233

By 1943, however, certain elements of the normal diet had become practically unobtainable, so that it became impossible to work out the index of food costs on the pre-war basis. During the first months of 1946, however, it appeared that the position in food and other supplies had become sufficiently stable to warrant a fresh attempt to determine how the cost of living had changed. The figures given in the following table had been calculated on all the normal items of personal expenditure. They cannot, however, be regarded as more than an approximate indi-

cation of the changes which have taken place and not as precise cost of living indices.

<i>Class</i>	<i>Monthly Income</i>	1946	1947
Labourer	less than Rs. 100	261	263
Artisan	Rs. 115 (average)	241	245
Clerical	Rs. 150-Rs. 500	230	238
Clerical	Rs. 500-Rs. 750	215	230
Higher Wage Groups .	Rs. 750 and over	210	225

The index of food costs alone in June, 1947, was estimated to range from 284 for the lower wage groups to 302 for the higher wage groups, and the index for clothing, in the same month, from 309 to 290.

Increases in Rent, Transport and Cost of Household Utensils

Mention must also be made of household utensils and requisites, which became very scarce towards the end of the war ; the index of cost of this item for 1947 is estimated to range from 255 to 270. Rent was from the outset of war controlled by Government regulations and until the end of the war experienced only a moderate increase. But the shortage of dwellings, resulting from lack of building during the war and the destruction wrought by the cyclones of 1945, have appreciably raised the rental value of houses. The index of rent and rates for 1947 was reckoned to be between 195 and 200.

THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT

The Labour Department contains three senior officials and nearly a dozen Labour Inspectors. Their duties are, first, to enforce the various labour laws and such agreements as have the force of law after publication in the *Gazette* ; secondly, to take up reasonable complaints regarding terms and conditions of work, and to try to find a just remedy ; thirdly, to collect information relating to labour, to analyse and publish it ; fourthly, to foster good relations between employers and workers by guidance and suggestion, particularly with regard to collective bargaining ; and finally to keep Government advised on the general labour situation and methods of dealing with abuses or difficulties.

TRADE UNIONISM IN MAURITIUS

The idea of trade unionism is familiar to Mauritian workers, but so far it has been put into practice with greater understanding by skilled and town workers than by agricultural labourers. The dock-workers and the artisans each have well-organised trade unions ; the Government servants, the teachers, the railway workers (the railway is run by the Government) are also organised in the main. Shop and office employees still for the most part hang back. Of the agricultural labourers the same criticism must be made as has been made of certain trade unions in India, that they are more interested in the communal than in the industrial aspect

of their organisation. No doubt they believe that as long as the earth exists and they possess hoes, it will always be possible to make a livelihood, but in fact it would not be possible for almost half a million people to feed themselves solely on what the Mauritian soil can produce. There must be imports, and therefore there must be exports. When their leaders think only of the interests of their own community and take little or no account of the common enterprise they are sharing with the employers, joint action becomes meaningless, and collective bargaining tends to degenerate into collective warfare. It has been suggested that the really capable potential leaders leave the ranks of the labourers to become planters themselves; this door to self-help has not yet been closed. The man whose principles do not allow him to become the hired overseer may feel he is quite entitled to launch out on his own as a landed proprietor, and the interests of this new career alienate him from the labourer who remains landless.

Trade unions (officially styled Industrial Associations) have to be registered, and on registration become bodies corporate. The Registrar may, however, refuse to register a new association if an association already in existence sufficiently cares for the interests of the workers concerned. About 10 per cent of the workers belong to trade unions, and about half a dozen leaders have the controlling interest in the registered unions, which are 20 in number.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

The official machinery for dealing with industrial disputes is set out in the Industrial Associations Ordinance, 1938. Any party to an industrial dispute may apply for an official Conciliation Board, and the Labour Commissioner is required to appoint the board which shall consist of a chairman and of an equal number of representatives nominated by each party to the dispute from among the persons involved in it. If a settlement is reached, it is published in the *Gazette* and has the force of law, with penal sanctions if an employer pays less than the agreed rates. If no settlement be reached within ten days of referring the dispute to the Board, a strike or lockout becomes legal. The result of making a strike conditional on the appointment of a Conciliation Board is that workers look on a Board as the preliminary of a strike, and the employers look on a demand for a Board as a threat of strike. A new bill, which has just passed its third reading, follows the English example and permits a strike or lock-out twenty-one days after the dispute has been reported to the Labour Commissioner, and thus removes the Conciliation Board from the unsettling atmosphere of strikes and lockouts.

In lieu of strike or lockout, the parties who have failed to settle their dispute at a Conciliation Board may then, and then only, refer their dispute to an official Court of Arbitration. Breach of the Court's decision may be treated as a breach of contract, but an employer cannot be forced to continue his business, nor can a worker be forced to continue working for his employer. If the Governor deems it expedient in the public

interest, he may compel the parties who have failed to reach a settlement at a Conciliation Board to submit their dispute to the Court of Arbitration. There is no permanent Court of Arbitration, the President and members being appointed *ad hoc* when the necessity arises. There is an official Chairman of Conciliation Boards, but the parties may choose their own chairman if they wish. The Industrial Court deals with all cases affecting workers, such as compensation, breach of contract and unjustified dismissal, and owing to its speed and informal procedure, performs a very valuable function in assisting the poorer workers to obtain their rights.

Altogether about 30 notices appeared in the *Gazette* regarding labour matters. Nine were publications of agreements reached between employers' associations and workers' unions. The most important concerned the General Port and Harbour Workers' Union, and the Mauritius Engineering and Technical Workers' Union (Electrical Branch). The decision of the Court of Arbitration in the dispute between the Mauritius Engineering and Technical Workers' Union and the Chamber of Agriculture (*i.e.*, the sugar producers) was also published in the *Gazette*.

Regulations and proclamations under the Apprenticeship Ordinance, 1946, declared the manufacture and repair of machinery to be a designated trade and subject to certain restrictions regarding the engagement and training of young persons. Extensive regulations based on English models were published under the Factories Ordinance, 1946, to provide for the safety of workers.

A bill to amend the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, 1931, has passed its third reading. This bill reduces the qualifying period from seven to three days' incapacity, but increases the period within which compensation may be claimed from three to six months. Reasonable medical expenses are also included in the compensation over and above the normal payment. The maximum weekly pension is increased from 50 per cent to 66 per cent of weekly earnings.

A short bill to authorise the setting up of labour exchanges and the prosecution of persons giving false information has also passed its third reading. A third bill which has passed its third reading consists of an amendment to the law on trade disputes, or rather a recodification. The changes made by the repeal of the Trade Disputes Act, 1947, have been applied to the Mauritian law, and on other points Mauritian trade dispute law has been brought in line with English law. The Mauritian law has also been made less rigid, so that the Labour Commissioner may intervene in labour disputes when and where he considers he can be most useful. Under the old law, for example, arbitration could not be granted till an official conciliation board had failed, even though the parties had already made every effort to reach agreement without success; under the new bill, a dispute of this nature may be referred directly to arbitration, if both parties agree, without an official conciliation board as a necessary preliminary. The Labour Commissioner must, however, first be satisfied that every effort has been made to reach a settlement by agreement.

Government notice No. 159, dated 19th June, 1947, fixes the minimum wage rates for workers on sugar estates, according to the category, class,

age and sex of the labourer. This notice is issued under the Minimum Wage Ordinance, 1933.

There are also on the Mauritian statute book laws relating to night work for women, minimum age for children employed in industry and in agriculture, the registration of industrial associations (trade unions), the recruitment of labour, hours of work, housing, health and medical care of workers employed by the month, shop-assistants, the truck system, job-contractors, the sale of intoxicating liquor, and an Industrial Court.

Chapter 3 : Public Finance and Taxation

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE

The following tables give a comparison under main Heads of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the years ended 30th June, 1939, 1946 and 1947.

<i>Main Head</i>	REVENUE		
	<i>Year ended 30th June</i>		
	1939 Rs.	1946 Rs.	1947 Rs.
1. Customs	5,902,101	5,881,796	9,279,284
2. Port, Harbour and Light dues	549,500	340,736	617,271
3. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified	6,510,242	20,280,273	19,160,370
4. Fees of Court or Office and payments for specific services	851,782	2,108,824	2,267,050
5. Reimbursements	1,446,273	3,020,967	3,332,493
6. Rents	229,220	258,370	272,455
7. Interest	486,474	823,623	910,014
8. Miscellaneous receipts	328,054	1,003,891	1,162,083
9. Posts, Telegraphs and Wireless	370,610	505,915	758,546
10. Colonial Development Fund	15,858	101,291	5,253
11. Railways	371,933	57,985	1,036
12. Land Sales	329	880	—
13. Special Revenue	788,462	690,765	1,949,627
14. Assistance from Imperial Funds	—	7,822,797	10,796,084
	<u>17,850,838</u>	<u>42,898,113</u>	<u>50,511,566</u>

The only items which call for comment when making a comparison between 1945-46 and 1946-47 are items 1, 2, 9, and 13. The excess in the first three items is largely due to the increase of imports and shipping movements. The last item includes a sum of Rs. 1,787,882 on account of the refund by the sugar industry of the balance of the Sinking Fund Sugar Industry Loan No. 3.

EXPENDITURE

Main Head	Year ended 30th June		
	1939 Rs.	1946 Rs.	1947 Rs.
1. Public Debt	2,292,014	1,983,740	3,768,442
2. Pensions and Gratuities	1,695,428	1,842,944	2,299,827
3. Governor	82,659	105,497	87,606
4. Central Administration	88,893	150,461	294,064
5. Legislature	12,889	18,793	17,746
6. Accountant General	197,112	175,832	260,533
7. Agriculture	542,286	575,294	454,572
8. Audit	79,185	77,124	89,456
9. Civil Commissioners	—	—	18,552
10. Customs, Port and Marine	613,206	898,389	872,497
11. Development and Welfare	—	—	1,250,000
12. Ecclesiastical	211,914	198,707	199,107
13. Education	1,441,412	1,824,076	1,971,162
14. Electricity and Telephones	178,248	613,325	1,092,484
15. Forests	203,331	611,989	641,638
16. Granary	79,421	58,034	73,270
17. Harbour	143,755	149,134	313,506
18. Health	1,477,202	2,466,221	2,611,795
Industrial School *	34,298	43,195	—
19. Institute and Public Museum	17,115	16,232	28,472
20. Judicial	402,390	434,244	468,395
21. Legal	99,564	85,980	83,009
22. Labour	770,307	925,323	1,212,585
23. Military	935,903	2,505,123	1,148,842
24. Miscellaneous	1,107,217	1,109,286	911,294
Municipal	398,317	—	—
25. Observatory	41,543	30,418	40,295
26. Police	970,903	1,095,686	1,439,271
27. Poll Tax	—	1,842,185	350,986
28. Posts and Telegraphs	322,521	295,716	475,404
29. Printing Office	107,772	181,565	214,638
30. Prisons and Industrial School	178,741	399,360	413,652
31. Registrar General	113,897	116,464	121,118
Carried forward	Rs. 14,839,443	20,830,337	23,224,218

* Included under Prisons from 1947.

EXPENDITURE (*contd.*)

<i>Main Head</i>	<i>Year ended 30th June</i>		
	1939 Rs.	1946 Rs.	1947 Rs.
Brought forward	14,839,443	20,830,337	23,224,218
32. Central Statistical Office .	—	30,231	30,995
33. Subventions	—	—	463,070
34. Public Works and Surveys	340,007	513,761	611,202
35. Public Works and Surveys Annually Recurrent .	1,039,379	1,517,931	1,862,153
36. Public Works and Surveys Extraordinary	228,204	899,275	420,989
Railways.	765,444	—	—
37. Special Expenditure. .	6,788,462	1,842,893	13,489,144
Cyclone Expenditure .	—	8,539,301	—
38. Emergency Services. .	—	9,225,047	9,911,283
Detainment Camp . . .	—	188,977	—
39. Development and Welfare	—	—	2,500,000
	<hr/> Rs. 24,000,939	<hr/> 43,587,753	<hr/> 52,513,054

In comparing 1945-46 with 1946-47, items 11, 14, 22, 23, 26, 33, 37, 38 and 39 call for comment.

Item 11. This amount represents the contribution from Revenue to the Development and Welfare Fund in reimbursements of certain items of expenditure which appeared formerly in the General Estimates.

Item 14. The excess over the previous year is due to the extension and improvement of the telephone system and the reconstruction of the Port Louis electricity supply system.

Item 22. The expenditure of the National Service Organisation which appeared in 1945-46 under the Emergency Services has been included under this head.

Item 23. The contribution towards Military Expenditure which in 1945-46 was Rs. 2,500,000 was reduced to Rs. 1,000,000 in 1946-47. The taking over by the Civil Government of Plaisance Aerodrome cost the Colony Rs. 143,000 and it has been decided that as from 1st September, 1947, a landing fee should be claimed.

Item 26. The revision of salary in accordance with the recommendations of the Swinden Commission accounts for this increase.

Item 33. This item was formerly included under Miscellaneous.

Item 37. Expenditure under this head was principally in respect of loans made for the repairs of private houses, estate buildings and factories damaged by the 1945 cyclones and the replanting with cane of sugar lands previously devoted to food crops. The amount paid in 1945-46 appeared under the item Cyclone Expenditure.

Item 38. The subsidisation of commodities has been increased from

Rs. 3,735,459 in 1945-46 to Rs. 4,534,165 in 1946-47 and the war bonus from Rs. 3,470,061 to Rs. 4,154,468.

Item 39. This represents the transfer from Surplus Funds to Mauritius Development and Welfare Funds.

Public Debt. The Public Debt of the Colony on 30th June, 1947, was Rs. 44,261,611. Against this liability there was an accumulated Sinking Fund of Rs. 18,633,012. The comparable figures in 1945-46 were Rs. 35,412,147 and Rs. 15,996,720.

Local loan issues accounted for Rs. 19,544,347 of the Public Debt, as detailed below :

	Rs.
Mauritius Loan, 1922	5,000,000
Sugar Industry Loan (No. 3), 1929	3,400,000
Agricultural Bank Loan (No. 1), 1937.	1,825,500
Agricultural Bank Loan (No. 2), 1937.	1,600,000
Municipal Electric Lighting Loan, 1934	48,000
Mauritius War Loan, 1941.	4,000,000
War Savings Certificates	513,347
Mauritius Loan, 1961	3,157,500
	<u>19,544,347</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

(Omitting Special Funds deposited in the Public Treasury)

LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
	Rs.		Rs.
Other Governments	362,954	Advances	9,652,827
Deposits	3,183,816	Cash Balances, etc.	8,821,494
Loan Funds Unexpended	25,323	Investments	21,279,012
Mauritius Development and Welfare Fund	6,869,177		<u>30,100,506</u>
Reserve Fund	12,000,000	Deduct :	
General Revenue Balance	15,259,859	Balances of Special funds, etc., in Hands of Treasurer	2,052,204
			<u>28,048,302</u>
	<u>Rs. 37,701,129</u>		<u>Rs. 37,701,129</u>

DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN HEADS OF TAXATION AND THEIR YIELD

	1945-46 Rs.	1946-47 Rs.
Customs—Import Duties	5,761,722	8,674,696
Customs—Export Duties	120,074	604,587
Excise Duty on Rum	4,971,664	4,711,604
Tobacco Excise	3,176,770	3,256,683
Licence Duties	1,836,834	2,351,254
Poll Tax	2,068,329	2,036,512
Companies Tax	1,574,022	2,025,666
Excess Profits Tax	2,733,225	1,704,589

Customs Tariff

The Customs Tariff is of considerable length, duties being both *ad valorem* and specific. Duties are charged under the general tariff

unless it is proved that the goods concerned are entitled to imperial preference. The majority of items in the tariff yielding large revenue pay the specific rate of duty. The Customs Ordinance, 1925, and regulations promulgated under it have been repealed and replaced. A Customs Handbook (1948) has been prepared and is now being printed. It contains, in addition to the new ordinance and regulations, the Customs Tariff Ordinance, 1938, as amended to 31st December, 1947, and a list of other Ordinances, Government Notices and Proclamations of interest to those doing business at the Customs.

Excise Duties

Excise duty on rum and tobacco provide almost the entire excise revenue. Local wine, matches, power spirit, vinegar, tinctures, drugs and perfumed spirits also contribute to excise revenue. Unfortunately (from the revenue aspect, but not otherwise) the new liquor policy has reduced the consumption of rum from 1,750,000 to 1,000,000 litres and the excise duty accordingly.

Stamp Duties

Stamp duties are of three kinds :

Schedule A to the Stamps (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1926, specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to a duty in proportion to the size of the paper used. The tariff ranges from Rs. 0.25 to Rs. 1.50.

Schedule B specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to a fixed stamp duty. The amounts vary from Rs. 0.50 to Rs. 15.00.

Schedule C specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to an *ad valorem* duty. These include bills of exchange, promissory notes, policies of insurance and debentures. The duties are mainly on a sliding scale.

By the passing of Ordinance 18 of 1946 and the publication of Government Notice No. 138 of 1946, stamp duty ceased to be claimed on receipts for salaries, wages, fees and other moneys paid to any person in respect of personal service, and on acquittances given on bills for the refund of expenditure actually incurred by Government servants in the discharge of their duties.

The stamp duties collected during the financial year 1946-47 amounted to Rs. 313,280.16 in respect of impressed paper. The duties levied by means of adhesive stamps are merged in the proceeds of sales of postage stamps.

Graduated Poll Tax

It should be remembered that the graduated poll tax of Mauritius is really an income tax and is not a poll tax in the sense in which the term is used for certain African colonies.

During the year 1947 at the suggestion of the Secretary of State an Ordinance was passed authorising the Governor in Executive Council to enter into arrangements with other countries with a view to the avoidance of double taxation of income. An arrangement under this Ordinance has since been entered into with the United Kingdom.

The rate of tax applicable to companies was maintained unchanged at 35 per cent of the net profit. On individuals the following schedule shows the tax applicable to various incomes :

<i>in excess of</i>	<i>Incomes but not exceeding</i>	<i>Tax Payable</i>
<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
4,000	5,000	60
5,000	6,000	90
6,000	7,000	120
7,000	8,000	160
8,000	9,000	220
9,000	10,000	280
10,000	11,000	340
11,000	12,000	410
12,000	13,000	490
13,000	14,000	580
14,000	15,000	680
15,000	16,000	800
16,000	17,000	940
17,000	18,000	1,100
18,000	19,000	1,270
19,000	20,000	1,450
20,000	22,500	1,800
22,500	25,000	2,300
25,000	27,500	2,900
27,500	30,000	3,600
30,000	32,500	4,500
32,500	35,000	5,600
35,000	37,500	6,800
37,500	40,000	8,000
40,000	42,500	9,200
42,500	45,000	10,400
45,000	47,500	11,650
47,500	50,000	12,900

For incomes exceeding Rs. 50,000 but not exceeding Rs. 100,000 the tax payable is Rs. 12,900 plus 50 per cent of the amount by which the income exceeds Rs. 50,000.

For incomes exceeding Rs. 100,000 the tax payable is Rs. 37,900 plus 60 per cent of the amount by which the income exceeds Rs. 100,000.

Estate Duty

Although estate duty is not payable in Mauritius death duty is payable at a rate dependent upon both the relationship to the deceased and the aggregate value of all property passing at death (Ordinances 47 of 1914 and 21 of 1930).

It is apparent that this combines the principles of legacy, succession and estate duties, the two first duties being leviable according to the degree

of relationship without aggregation of the whole estate, and the latter on the aggregate estate irrespective of relationship.

The duty collected during the year 1947 amounted to Rs. 396,003, as compared with Rs. 649,030 in 1946.

Miscellaneous

During the year 1946-47 works under the ten-year Development and Welfare scheme were commenced. The total estimated cost of these works is Rs. 102,821,609 and is being financed by grants from the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund, subventions from General Revenue, payments by local authorities and other organisations and by the flotation of a loan. The estimated expenditure for the year was Rs. 13,492,112, but, due to difficulties in obtaining personnel and materials, the actual expenditure was only Rs. 2,204,490.

Grants of £5 per acre amounting to Rs. 1,923,649 were paid to those sugarcane planters who had grown foodstuffs during the war to enable them to replant cane. Loans totalling Rs. 8,872,435 were issued to sugar estates and others for rehabilitation purposes after the 1944-45 cyclones. Both the grants and loans were financed by the Imperial Government.

The currency in circulation continued to increase and reached a total of Rs. 28,826,835 at 30th June, 1947, as compared with Rs. 11,472,485 in 1938.

The estimates of the colony for 1946-47 provided for a deficit of Rs. 6,463,188. The final result was, however, a deficit of only Rs. 2,081,156. The improved result was due to an increase of Rs. 8,625,000 in General Revenue as compared with an increase of Rs. 5,255,000 in General Expenditure.

Financial control has continued during 1947 to be exercised in Mauritius as in other sterling area countries.

Chapter 4 : Currency and Banking

CURRENCY

Notes and silver coin in circulation at the end of the last three financial years were as follows :

	30th June, 1945	30th June, 1946	30th June, 1947
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Notes . . .	25,181,970	26,121,855	26,936,625
Coin. . . .	1,705,210	1,705,210	1,890,210
	<hr/> 26,887,180	<hr/> 27,827,065	<hr/> 28,826,835

The amount of the Note Security Fund, calculated at the mean market price of the investments on 30th June, 1947, stood at Rs. 29,632,324, *i.e.*, 110 per cent of the value of the notes in circulation,

The Coin Security Fund amounted to Rs. 486,823 at 30th June, 1947;

which, added to the bullion value of the issued and unissued coins, amounting to Rs. 2,255,635, gives a total of Rs. 2,742,458, against a face value of the Mauritius silver coins minted of Rs. 3,550,000.

BANKING

There are three banks in the Colony :

- (a) The Mauritius Commercial Bank
- (b) The Mercantile Bank of India
- (c) Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas).

The Mauritius Commercial Bank was established in 1838, and has a paid-up capital of Rs. 2,000,000 made up of 10,000 shares of Rs. 200 each. The total amount of deposits on 31st December, 1947, was Rs. 24,014,307. The Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd., took over the business of the Bank of Mauritius, Limited, on 3rd May, 1916. The total paid-up capital is £1,050,000. The deposits made locally on 31st December, 1947, amounted to Rs. 6,917,918. Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) has a paid-up capital of £4,975,500. The total deposits of the local bank on 31st December, 1947, amounted to Rs. 12,198,451. This bank, which is affiliated with Barclays Bank, Ltd., was founded in 1925, and represents the amalgamation of the Anglo-Egyptian Bank, Ltd., the Colonial Bank and the National Bank of South Africa, Ltd. A branch of the last-named bank was established in Mauritius in December, 1919. In February, 1926, its business was taken over by Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) following the amalgamation already mentioned. The bank acts as agents for Barclays Overseas Development Corporation.

Offices of the Government Savings Bank are established in the nine districts of the island with a head office in Port Louis. The total number of depositors at 30th June, 1947, was 58,582 compared with 55,022 in the preceding year, with deposits amounting to Rs. 16,835,091 as against Rs. 17,180,346. Interest is paid at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum.

The Mauritius Agricultural Bank was established under Ordinance No. 1 of 1936. Its capital (Rs. 10,000,000) was provided by Government which raised loans at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum for this purpose.

Of the Rs. 3,600,000 raised locally Rs. 200,000 as drawn bonds has now been refunded. The Bank is self-supporting and meets sinking fund charges on the loans raised to finance it. The amount of such contributions to 31st December, 1947, was Rs. 590,880.

Its balance sheet as at 31st December, 1947, may be condensed thus :

LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
	Rs.		Rs.
Treasury . . .	10,137,886	Loans . . .	10,679,656
Sinking Fund . .	590,880	Cash . . .	98,245
Internal accounts .	88,771	Investments . .	17,952
Reserve & P. & L. ac-		Other assets . .	6,362
count . . .	575,558	S.F. contribution .	590,880
	<u>Rs. 11,393,095</u>		<u>Rs. 11,393,095</u>

Since 1937, when it started operations, the Bank has paid out Rs. 15,244,735 in loans.

Ordinance No. 1 of 1936 provided for a minimum loan of Rs. 5,000. In 1940 this was abolished and the bank was authorised to make loans of any amount. Under Ordinance No. 40 of 1940 it was authorised to issue bills to be purchased by the Accountant General up to Rs. 1,000,000 with the proviso that this fresh capital would be used exclusively to make loans of less than Rs. 5,000 to small planters, *i.e.*, planters who supply less than 1,000 tons of cane yearly to a factory.

In 1944 the managing director, who had been appointed by the Secretary of State, severed his connection with the bank upon the expiration of his contract. On his recommendation the post of managing director was abolished, his duties devolving upon a chairman and a manager. The chairman is appointed annually by the Secretary of State. Under the new arrangements loans are granted by the Board on a majority of votes. The chairman has a casting vote.

After the cyclones of 1945 Government decided to make loans to those whose property had suffered damage and to those planters who were in need of money to replant with cane land which had been compulsorily put under other foodstuffs as an emergency measure. The Bank was entrusted with the making and recovery of these loans (Ordinance No. 28 of 1945).

On 31st December, 1947, loans for these purposes amounted to Rs. 18,746,349, of which Rs. 15,307,932 was for replanting, Rs. 2,769,459 for repairs to industrial buildings and Rs. 668,958 for repairs to houses.

Chapter 5 : Commerce

The value of the trade of the Colony in 1947 was Rs. 214,845,520 as compared with Rs. 120,564,889 in 1946 and Rs. 72,757,580 in 1938. The imports totalled Rs. 113,833,412 and exports Rs. 101,012,108.

The main imports are rice, flour, tobacco, cigars and cigarettes, unmanufactured tobacco, wines and spirits, tea, cotton piece-goods, silk manufactures, oil and motor spirit. The financial crisis in the United Kingdom necessitated the re-introduction during 1947 of import permits for United Kingdom and other British goods. The immediate consequences of this measure were price increases or disappearance of goods from view at a time when in some articles there had appeared significant signs of overtrading and of resulting price decreases.

The one significant industry of the Colony is sugar production together with its ancillary industries, such as high-degree alcohol which has been for the past five years sent to the United Kingdom for the manufacture of gin. During the war, and again now owing to the dollar position, large quantities of this high-degree alcohol are being used as motor spirit, after having been denatured with 10 per cent petrol. This

reduces appreciably the quantity of petrol that otherwise would have to be imported.

SUGAR PRODUCTION

The normal quantity of sugar exported is about 300,000 tons, but this is dependent upon the weather to a greater extent than most agricultural ventures. Without cyclones, rainfall may be so low as to cause a 25-30 per cent drop in production. On the other hand, if one of these cyclones hits the island or comes very close, then the damage to the crop may be considerable. In 1945 the quantity of sugar shipped was only 134,000 tons as a result of three bad cyclones early in the year. The quantity of sugar produced in 1947 is the highest yet recorded, amounting to 350,000 tons. Granted favourable climatic conditions and a good labour supply, there seems to be no reason why the industry should not produce up to 400,000 tons of sugar a year from the present acreage.

OTHER FOODSTUFFS

Though the Colony is essentially agricultural, it barely produces one-tenth of the foodstuffs it requires. Before the war 60,000 tons of rice were imported annually from India and Burma. Rice is the staple diet of the majority of the population. It has unfortunately been obtainable only in small quantities for the last 5 or 6 years. To compensate for this shortage flour has been imported in increased quantities from Australia. Tobacco and cigarettes, spirits, confectionery, preserved provisions, machinery for the sugar industry when available, cotton, woollen and silk goods, motor vehicles, soap and paint, are all imported from the United Kingdom.

A wide choice of vegetables are grown locally and some semi-tropical fruits but no citrus fruit. Before the war oranges, apples and grapes, butter, bacon, hams, etc., were imported from South Africa and potatoes from Kenya and Madagascar.

Before the war wines were imported from France, but South African wines are now imported on a fairly large scale. Live cattle for slaughter are imported from Madagascar and some from the dependency of Rodrigues, together with pigs and poultry. A small quantity of frozen meat was imported during the year and was much appreciated; the experiment will be repeated when fresh supplies can be obtained. Wine, matches and tobacco are all manufactured locally; the wine from local fruits, or imported raisins when available, matches from local timber and imported materials and tobacco from locally grown leaves, sometimes blended with imported leaf from the United States of America.

Chapter 6 : Production

AGRICULTURE

The economic well-being of Mauritius is dependent upon its agricultural industries, by far the most important of which is the sugar industry. No major calamity in the form of a destructive cyclone occurred during the year under review, but rainfall during the summer months when the vegetation is at a maximum was definitely below average. Precipitation was above average in June and July, after which a long dry spell occurred until December, when beneficial rains were experienced. Temperature generally was above the average.

Sugar

In so far as the principal crop, sugar, is concerned, climatic conditions were not so unfavourable as the preceding paragraph would seem to indicate. The amount of sugar produced was approximately 350,000 metric tons, a figure substantially higher than the previous record crop, *i.e.*, 330,000 metric tons in 1942. This figure was much in excess of expectation and some of the reasons for this unexpectedly large crop may be as follows :

- (a) November, 1946, was an exceptionally good month, so that the 1947 crop got a good and early start.
- (b) Climatic conditions in the months of June and July were good, so that the cane continued growing late in the season, particularly in the warmer districts.
- (c) A larger proportion than normal of plant, 1st and 2nd ratoon canes.
- (d) A good ripening season, with the result that the amount of sugar extracted from the cane reached a record figure of 12.5 per cent.
- (e) A larger area of land under cane. Most of the land which had been diverted from sugarcane to food-crop production during the war had been replanted with sugarcanes before the end of 1946, and cane was harvested from these areas for the 1947 crop. Incidentally, this replanting programme was practically finished during 1947, and the bonus of £5 per acre for replanting has been distributed to planters.

The area under sugarcane at the beginning of the year was about 140,000 arpents, of which possibly 125,000 arpents were harvested, so that the sugar production per arpent amounted to approximately 2.8 tons. The exportable portion of the sugar crop was purchased by the U.K. Ministry of Food.

Alcohol

Alcohol continued to be manufactured from molasses both for export and for local consumption. On account of an acute shortage of petrol,

it was necessary for the Controller of Supplies to requisition a certain amount of molasses from sugar factories for the specific purpose of manufacturing alcohol to be used as fuel for internal combustion engines. The total quantity of alcohol produced was 8,533,557 litres, of which 5,522,417 litres were for export, 1,997,085 litres for industrial purposes and 1,014,055 litres for human consumption.

Tobacco

Tobacco was planted—under permit—on a slightly increased scale during the year, permits being issued for approximately 454 arpents of flue-cured tobacco and for 163 arpents of air-cured tobacco. This area was cultivated by about 70 flue-curers and 395 air-curers. The earlier plantations made good growth due to a better supply of suitable fertilisers and to suitable weather conditions, with the result that the leaf received at the Tobacco Warehouse from these plantations was of better quality than for some years past. The later plantations suffered from adverse weather conditions, particularly drought, so that the leaf from these was inferior in quality, particularly that harvested after the December rains started.

In all about 435 tons of leaf were received at the warehouse with a total value of Rs. 756,210. All this leaf is used for local consumption, the quality not being of a sufficiently high standard for export.

Aloe Fibre

Fibre was produced by 24 estates during the year and it is pleasing to note that the supply of this commodity has greatly improved during the year, the quantity of fibre delivered to the Government Sack Factory being 940 tons compared with 710 in the previous year. The Sack Factory, however, continued to work on a single-shift system except during the latter part of the year, when overtime was done. This became necessary because of the unexpectedly large sugar crop and the uncertainty of gunny-bag supplies from India. Unfortunately, the factory had to close down early in December because of lack of electric power, but advantage was taken of this to complete the annual overhaul. By the time that this was completed, power was again available and the manufacture of 80-kg. bags instead of 55-kg. bags was started. This will allow of a larger quantity of sugar being packed in local bags, a very important consideration in view of the difficulty of obtaining jute bags from India. Efforts are being made to resume work on a two-shift basis, so that bag production can be almost doubled. In addition to bags, the Sack Factory has produced a large quantity of filter-press cloth for use in the sugar factories, and yarn for the manufacture of ropes. Two special looms were erected during the year for the manufacture of filter-press cloth. In all, about 750,000 bags were produced during the year and about 66,000 yards of filter-press cloth.

During the later part of the year, two advisers, Mr. Lock, Senior Agricultural Officer of Tanganyika, and Mr. P. Lees, a member of the firm Messrs. Robey & Co., of Lincoln, England, visited the Colony

to advise on the fibre industry, the former from the agricultural aspect and the latter from the mechanical aspect. It appears that considerable development may be possible with the ultimate aim of producing enough fibre for the Colony to manufacture sufficient bags for the sugar industry. If this is to be done it will be necessary to enlarge the present Sack Factory very considerably as its maximum output will only be sufficient to bag about one-quarter of the sugar crop, assuming that it works on a double-shift basis.

Moreover, to achieve the object of bagging all Mauritius sugar in locally produced bags considerable development of fibre production from *Furcroea gigantea* will be necessary, and it would seem that this can only be done by cultivating the fibre plant on a plantation basis, rather than by relying only on the wild plants.

Mr. Lock's report on the agricultural development of the industry had not been received by the end of the year, but Mr. Lees's report clearly indicates that a modern decorticator suitable for decorticating the leaves of *Furcroea gigantea* is required.

Food (Miscellaneous)

Compulsory planting of foodcrops ceased in 1945 and practically all this land has now reverted to sugar production. However, in view of the continued shortages in necessary foodstuffs, the Governor appointed a Food Production Board in 1947, with the Honourable A. M. Osman as chairman, to encourage the local production of food. At the start emphasis was laid on the production of starchy foods, such as maize, manioc and sweet potatoes, but later on a scheme was prepared for greatly increasing the production of earthnuts with the object of producing as large a quantity of edible oil as possible. These schemes are all on a voluntary basis, the planting of the various crops being encouraged by means of bonuses for planting and by guaranteeing the sale of maize and earthnuts at a minimum price. In this way it is hoped that land at present not under cultivation but capable of it will be utilised, that land temporarily free from sugarcane, *i.e.*, between cutting the last ratoon crop and the planting of the next, will be planted in short crops such as maize or earthnuts, and that more foodstuffs will be planted in the interlines of sugarcanes. If this can be done on a large scale there is no doubt that it will do much to alleviate the food situation. One main difficulty is a shortage of labour. To get the earthnut scheme off to a flying start, 200 tons of seed nuts were imported from Uganda and plantations are now being made.

Tung Oil

The Senior Agricultural Officer in charge of tung oil investigations in Nyasaland, Mr. C. C. Webster, visited the Colony for three weeks in July and August, 1947, to investigate the possibility of growing this crop in Mauritius. The report submitted by this officer indicated that there is very little likelihood of this crop being successfully grown here on account of climatic conditions, including cyclones, the high cost of labour

and the much smaller probable financial return per acre than with sugarcane.

Tea

The area under tea remained constant during the year and it is estimated that total production was about 485,000 lbs., a quantity still insufficient to meet the full requirements of the Colony. Mr. F. O. Sprinks has been appointed as Tea Officer to implement the recommendations contained in the report submitted by Capt. E. G. B. de Mowbray, C.B.E., R.N. (ret.), and was on his way out to the Colony towards the close of 1947. The possibilities of extending the local market for tea and for developing an export market are being examined.

Entomology

A large number of insects have been imported into the island in an effort to control (a) Herbe Conde (*Cordia macrostachya*) and (b) sugarcane borers. One leaf-eating insect, *Physonota alutacea*, has already been released in large numbers to help in controlling Herbe Conde, but unfortunately no specimen has so far been recovered. A second insect, *Schematiza cordiae*, has not yet been released as there are doubts as to whether it does not also feed on other plants of economic importance. Two types of fly were introduced to try to control the sugarcane borers, but it is too early to determine results. Not only have insects been imported by air, but also about 60,000 ladybirds have been exported to Bermuda in the fight against scale insects on the cedars in that Colony.

Milk

A full programme of livestock improvement could not be carried out because of lack of properly trained staff. The most important work of this nature is related to the milk industry. This staple food is very scarce and it is calculated that there is only sufficient to supply an average of 72 c.cs. per head of population. This is only about one-quarter of the quantity necessary and it will only be by an all-out effort that conditions can be improved greatly. The lines along which this may be achieved are as follows: increase in the number of milk cattle, improvement of the quality of these animals and of pastures, including elimination of Herbe Conde, and by better general management of herds or of single animals. The pure-bred Friesian bulls imported from South Africa are now stationed at several places in the Colony, and if it is found that the bull in any one locality is not being fully employed, efforts are made to transfer it to another where its services will be more appreciated. It might be noted that the services of locally-bred pure Friesian bulls which are smaller in the frame than the imported ones are more highly appreciated, particularly by the Indian one-cow keeper, whose cows are generally of a small size.

Madagascar bullocks were imported for meat during 1947 in satis-
6*

factory numbers, a certain quantity of frozen meat was introduced from Africa and a fair number of sheep from Australia.

LAND TENURE

No significant change has taken place in local land tenure during 1947, but there has been a growing awareness that the system of leasing lands by verbal agreement is in urgent need of reform. So long as good faith exists between landlord and tenant there is no particular objection to this form of agreement, but more than one case has arisen during 1947 of an estate changing hands and of the new owner showing himself unwilling to accept the word-of-mouth agreements entered into by his predecessor with smallholders cultivating food crops.

It is felt that a simple and inexpensive form of written agreement valid in law is required to ensure security of tenure for the tenant and the proper observance of the conditions of tenancy required by the landlord. The Food Production Board, as part of its long-term plans, is considering this in conjunction with the Land Settlement Officer.

An attempt was made to carry out the aerial survey mentioned in the 1946 Annual Report, but owing to clouds only partial success was achieved and arrangements are being made to repeat the survey as soon as weather conditions are fully suitable.

FISHERIES

A small ship has now been purchased and refitted to carry out research work on the fishing grounds surrounding Mauritius and Seychelles. Two marine biologists have been appointed to carry out scientific investigations, Dr. J. F. G. Wheeler and Dr. F. D. Ommanney, the latter better known to the general public as the author of several books, including *South Latitude* and *North Cape*. A research chemist, Mr. J. D. Jones, has also been appointed. During the cyclone months, the ship will be based on the Seychelles and will carry out investigations in the seas surrounding Mauritius during the months of the year free from cyclones. The vessel arrived at Seychelles on 24th December, 1947.

Dr. Ommanney was stationed in Mauritius from June to December and during his stay carried out biometric investigations on fish caught in the reserves by means of net fishing at regular intervals.

The total amount of fish recorded at all controlled landing stations, 1,480 tons, was slightly lower than the previous year's total of 1,529 tons.

Control over the Fisheries branch was transferred from the Supplies Control Department to the Department of Agriculture and a Fisheries Officer was appointed to take charge of the branch and act as liaison with the research team. The existing fishery laws have been consolidated and amended, but the draft ordinance had not passed through all its stages by the end of the year.

A systematic study of the various species of fish in these waters, including sharks, has been started by the Fisheries Officer, as data so far available has been found to be far from complete.

FORESTRY

Production is organised by the Forest Department in respect of most Crown lands, by lessees in the case of the Pas Geometriques (a strip of coastal filao trees round the coast) and by landowners over the remainder of forest lands. The whole production is for local consumption.

The work of timber and fuel conversion in the forest is invariably piecework, some of the timber going to sawmills in the round but most of it is hewn square. In Crown forests clearing for plantations is by contract tender, the tending of plantations and nursery work are by daily paid labour with a few boy learners. The greater number of the forest sawyers and woodcutters are Creoles, whilst the silvicultural workers are mainly Indians. No difficulties in labour supply were experienced during the year.

The effect of the 1945 cyclones continued to be felt this year in the withering and dying of the Chinese pine plantations. On the other hand, it is satisfactory to note that the Eucalyptus snout beetles have been almost completely destroyed by the parasite *Anaphoidea nitens* introduced in 1946 by the Agricultural Department.

Silviculture

Two hundred and nine arpents of new plantations were made during 1947. In Rodrigues Crown forest areas were freed of settlements and departmental planting schemes initiated. Proposals were made to the Co-operative Credit Societies in this dependency for communal tree plantations.

COMPARISON BETWEEN PRODUCTION OF LOCAL TIMBER AND IMPORTS FROM OVERSEAS DURING THE YEARS 1939-47

Sources of Supply	Year	Production of Timber	Value in Rs.	Imports	Value in Rs.
		Log Volume Cu. ft.		Log Volume Estimated Cu. ft.	
Crown Forests and Pas					
Geometriques	1939	117,300	80,500	840,000	737,200
do.	1940	134,300	94,600	494,000	439,900
do.	1941	175,300	146,000	236,000	396,200
do.	1942	483,100	400,000	78,000	185,000
do.	1943	391,600	509,000	Nil	Nil
do.	1944	310,700	390,000	16,000	59,000
Crown Forests, Pas Geo-					
metriques and Private					
Sources	1945	962,200	433,000	133,000	528,700
do.	1946	568,600	443,000	87,000	151,400
Crown Forests and Pas					
Geometriques	1947	615,400	619,600	318,000	1,102,800

INDUSTRY

Apart from the 31 factories engaged in the manufacture of sugar and five tea factories, there are also in operation nine factories manufacturing

wine from imported raisins and local fruit, two cigarette factories, 11 distilleries, the majority of which are producing for export or for industrial purposes, and two match factories. Before the war the match factories produced quite good matches, but shortage of imported chemicals resulted in a marked lowering of quality, and the public turned with relief to imported matches (mostly from Sweden). The retailers also preferred to sell the imported article because of the larger margin of profit allowed. The importation of matches has now been prohibited, for currency reasons, by the Controller of Supplies.

Organisation

Production in the sugar industry can be classified under four headings :

- (a) 29 estates with factories occupying about 132,000 acres of cane land
- (b) 104 large planters (*i.e.*, those possessing estates of 100 acres and over) owning approximately 55,000 acres
- (c) nearly 14,000 small planters each cultivating less than 100 acres and planting about 14,000 acres in all, and
- (d) almost 3,000 "metayers"—labourers who cultivate plots on estate land on a share basis with the owner of the land. They usually receive in return for their labour about 65 kilograms of sugar for each ton of canes they cultivate.

Sugar production, as has been stated elsewhere in this report, is almost entirely for export and is the mainstay of the island's economy. The tea and aloe-fibre industries are organised on a similar basis to the sugar industry, though the products so far are entirely for local consumption or use. The distilleries produce mainly for export, and the few remaining industrial concerns supply the internal market.

Stoppages during 1947

The number of conciliation boards, both official and unofficial, which sat during 1947 has been large, but most of them were requested by the unions in order to implement their plans for improved conditions, and in practically every case their demands were at least in part granted, though some deadlocks had to be submitted to arbitration. Early in the year discussions were held by the Sugar Industry Minimum Wage Advisory Board which comprises representatives of the Government, employers, small planters and workers. More than half a dozen meetings were held over a period of several weeks, and every point that was raised was thoroughly discussed. Though complete agreement was not reached between all parties, a compromise was ultimately found possible.

The crop began under favourable conditions, with greater willingness to work on the part of the labourers than had been known for a long time ; but while the crop was still in full swing, a newly appointed leader of the agricultural labourers came forward with various demands which he claimed required immediate settlement. A Conciliation Board was

granted, and some points were conceded, but whilst negotiations were still in progress, the representatives of the labourers seemed to think they could obtain a favourable result more quickly by unostentatiously persuading the workers to go on strike. Negotiations were broken off, and for ten days the labourers refrained at different times, in different places, and in different numbers, from going to work. The largest number absent at any one time was 25 per cent (about 15,000). A large percentage of the strikers were women and children. Towards the end of the period there was a possibility that picketing might degenerate into violence, but no serious incident occurred. Many of the strikers seemed to have no clear idea of the purpose of the strike, and one man was even heard regretting that his absence on account of illness prevented him from being absent on account of the strike.

After ten days men of goodwill on both sides succeeded in persuading the parties to agree to a compromise on some points and to drop others. The final result was that the labourers engaged by the month have gained the concession of selling the manure of their cattle to the estate for Rs. 2 a month, instead of having to give it for nothing. The estate managers however state that they will now no longer be able to advance money interest-free to purchase the cattle. The small planters were the chief sufferers, although the union had no demand to make of them.

The amount of sugar extracted from the canes was reduced owing to the heavy fall in the sugar content of the canes which normally takes place whenever crushing is unduly delayed. If the delay caused by this stoppage had been avoided, all the canes would have been milled whilst still containing a high percentage of sugar.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The outstanding feature of the year was the removal of the Co-operative Division from the general organisation of the Department of Agriculture and the creation, as from 1st July, of a new Department of Co-operation with a whole-time Registrar in charge. The new department forms part of the Central Administration under the general direction of the Colonial Secretary.

Mr. G. E. Bodkin, C.B.E., formerly Director of Agriculture and now full-time Registrar of Co-operative Societies, arrived in the Island on 31st October after a period of leave and a study tour in Cyprus. Before his arrival Mr. W. K. H. Campbell, C.M.G., who was spending a short holiday in the island, was appointed Acting Registrar with the special request that he should start a drive in connection with the establishment of co-operative stores.

Credit Societies

Nine new societies were registered during the year; of these 4 were in Mauritius and 5 in Rodrigues. On 31st December there were 81 societies in active operation in Mauritius and 21 in Rodrigues, making a grand total of 102 active credit societies. Except the Rodrigues Fishermen's Society, which is of limited liability, they are all of unlimited

liability. The number of societies made to assume full responsibility for the management of their own affairs increased this year from 24 to 33. As a means of introducing this change in the remaining societies, provision has been inserted in the new Model Bye-Laws requiring every society :

- (1) to fix the maximum liability it may incur during the following year in loans and deposits from non-members ;
- (2) to fix the maximum amount up to which it may lend to a member ; and
- (3) to fix annually, and for budget purposes, the maximum credit for each member, provided that the amount does not exceed the maximum admissible under (2) above.

The amount of money loaned from Government during the year was Rs. 97,550. This has been advanced to 18 societies in Mauritius and 5 in Rodrigues. The aggregate amount of advances due to Government on 31st December, 1947, was Rs. 314,660 and was held by 63 societies in Mauritius and 20 societies in Rodrigues.

An important departure from established usage was the reduction this year of the commencing rate of interest in credit societies from 12 per cent to 10 per cent. For some 33 years the rate of interest in new societies had been 12 per cent ; this was intended to create a strong reserve to safeguard the unlimited liability assumed by members as the only security given by the borrower is his personal bond ; because of the agriculturist's uncertain fortunes there is always a serious risk of loss.

It might, however, be observed that the rate did not generally tell heavily on the borrower, who profited from the considerable economies characteristic of co-operative finance. This rate was, of course, progressively reduced as reserves were built up, but it invariably happened that there were a number of societies lending at an initial 12 per cent. With the availability of cheap money, moneylenders have brought down the rates of interest they used to charge. The Government has reduced its own rate to societies from 4 to 2·5 per cent.

Consumers' Societies

The coming into force of the new Co-operative Societies Ordinance No. 51 of 1945, which now makes it possible to extend co-operative activities to fields other than " Credit ", in March, 1947, inaugurated a drive for the development of co-operative stores, and considerable progress has been made. A set of by-laws and an explanatory leaflet were drawn up and a suitable system of accounts devised. This form of co-operation is an extremely difficult one, calling for a degree of loyalty and determination which it is not easy to secure, and any attempt at the organisation of such stores necessarily arouses bitter opposition from vested interests. The very wide experience of Mr. Campbell allied to the intimate local knowledge of the Deputy Registrar proved an admirable association for the inauguration of this type of co-operation. By 31st December the number of stores registered was 14 of which 12 had

begun operations, 21 others were on the point of starting, work had been begun on 18 and another 37 applications were on the waiting list. In fact, there is at present more demand than can be immediately handled. The organisation and early education of these consumer societies is the main care of the Registrar and his Deputy.

Audit

Another important departure from established usage was a modification of the system of audit this year. It had previously been the custom for all the societies to be audited by the Deputy Registrar or the Assistant Registrar accompanied by an Inspector but it was felt that the time had come when it would be wise to make the Inspectors themselves responsible for the audit. Accordingly, a new arrangement was made whereby Inspectors should go, if necessary in pairs, to a society, but that no Inspector should be associated with the audit of a society of whose affairs he had been in charge. In order to check the accuracy and efficiency of the work done, the Deputy Registrar and the Assistant Registrar "superaudit" a suitable percentage of the societies. The Inspectors executing audits have no means of knowing which of the societies which they have audited will, in due course, be additionally examined.

Legislation

To meet the requirements of the new Ordinance of 1945, which now extends registration to a variety of co-operative activities, a set of Rules drafted upon a model received from the Secretary of State was passed in July, and the former model by-laws of the existing credit societies were amended.

Despite the administrative changes referred to, and the exacting burden created by the co-operative stores, a gratifying feature noticeable this year is the satisfactory development of the movement along sound co-operative lines. There has been a marked increase in the share capital of the credit societies, a general expansion of the movement, more active working and a maintenance of the good standard of recovery.

The Registrar, during his official visit to Cyprus in 1947, studied the development and activities of the Central Co-operative Bank and of marketing societies in that island. Steps are now being taken to inaugurate a Central Co-operative Bank in Mauritius and to extend existing marketing operations amongst the local societies.

Chapter 7 : Social Services

EDUCATION

This year has seen the ripening of plans made for the Colony's Development and Welfare Programme. The Education Department's share in

the ten-year development scheme will be the building of the new Teachers' Training College and primary schools costing about 3½ million rupees.

There were some 55,000 children attending schools during the year, an increase of about 2,000 on last year's figures. Of these 43,000 were in the Government and aided primary schools, 8,000 in secondary schools and the rest in registered but unaided schools. There were over 1,800 teachers employed in these schools.

While improved scales of salaries for primary school teachers were introduced in 1946, as a result of the recommendations of the Swinden Commission, it soon became clear that these revisions did not go far enough to mitigate the very real difficulties in which teachers found themselves. After considerable discussion with the Departmental Joint Committee and the Teachers' Unions, the Director of Education asked for the appointment of a Commission of Enquiry into primary teachers' salaries. The Commission was completing the preparation of its report at the end of the year.

Teachers' unions have been active throughout the year. It is unfortunate that the Government and aided school teachers cannot see their way to combine to form one association. Union is strength and one body representing the whole primary school teaching staff would have greater influence and authority in negotiations on behalf of its members. When the time comes for conditions of employment of Government and aided school teachers to be equated (and it is believed that this development is not far ahead), it is hoped that these two unions will agree to merge. Meanwhile, both unions have energetically pursued their respective aims and can certainly not be accused of sleeping. Exchanges of views between the unions' representatives and the administration of the Education Department have been on the whole friendly and not without mutual benefit.

The question of pensions for teachers in the aided primary schools received much attention during 1947 and, pending a final decision, compassionate allowances on a basis slightly less advantageous than Government servants' pensions have been awarded to all teachers of sixty years of age and over, many of whom have been carrying on in the hope that some pension provision would be introduced. This is the first time since 1942 that these *ex-gratia* allowances have been awarded. Progress has been made with the question of providing aided and Government primary school teachers with similar pension terms and an early decision may now be expected.

The most valuable and most cherished scholastic prizes are the English Scholarships. These are annual awards to the best scholars on the classical and science sides of the Royal College and enable these laureates (as they are called) to take at public expense a course of training up to five years at an educational institution overseas. But apart from being the lodestar of every pupil, the English Scholarship is also a Mauritian tradition hallowed by age and association. The decision to substitute the Cambridge Higher School Certificate Examination for the special English Scholarship Examination has represented a break with the past and has not

been arrived at without considerable discussion and controversy at every level. However, an acceptable basis for the application of the Higher School Certificate was finally reached and provision made for the introduction of two extra scholarships annually for pupils of the aided boys' secondary schools and one for the girls' secondary schools. One of the conditions for eligibility for the English Scholarship under the new regulations is that male candidates must gain exemption from the London University Intermediate B.A. or B.Sc. (through the Higher School Certificate Examination). This is of advantage in a Colony where there is no provision for post-secondary education, especially to those students who go overseas for further studies. Girl candidates for the scholarship must have completed a special course comprising physiology, housewifery, mothercraft, needlework, laundry work and cookery.

The first Education Officers' conference held its opening session in January with a very full agenda. The Conference resolved itself into five Committees which met weekly until they had disposed of all their business. Each Committee then reported to a full session of the Conference held during the Easter holidays when their findings were discussed and a report was prepared representing the majority views of the Conference. Much ground was covered and a number of the recommendations made are already being acted upon. The opportunities provided by the Conference for departmental planning and stock-taking have proved of real value. Ideas and views placed in the common stock have helped to clarify problems and indicate useful lines of action in dealing with them.

Total expenditure on education for the financial year ending on 30th June, 1947, was Rs. 2,144,690 compared with Rs. 1,756,798 for the previous year.

A system of formal annual inspections of all primary schools was introduced in January. The inspections cover all aspects of school work, teaching efficiency, out-of-class activities and the state of the buildings and their surroundings. Each school is visited by two or three Inspectors for the two or three days, according to the size of the school. These visits of inspection are providing a fund of systematically collected knowledge of the primary schools and their staffs.

The Colony's first Handicrafts and Homecrafts Centre, close to the Education Department head offices at Rose Hill, was nearing completion at the end of the year. It is hoped that the training to be given at these Centres (a total of four is planned) will be a useful corrective to the prevailing concentration on book learning.

It had become increasingly evident in recent years that an expert investigation of the island's secondary school system was needed. Mr. A. E. Nichols, President of the Incorporated Association of Headmasters and a member of the Fleming Commission, accepted the Secretary of State's invitation to visit Mauritius for this purpose and spent six weeks in the Colony during September and October. His report comprises a critical survey of existing secondary schools and indicates directions for fruitful development.

The work of the Teachers' Training College has been extended on a wide front and, with the arrival of the handicrafts, physical training and art tutors, the staffing position has improved. The quality of students for the primary school teachers' course rises yearly and this year the College received a greatly increased number of applications from which to select. Most of the successful students were of School Certificate standard. The increase of students' allowances from thirty to sixty rupees a month has widened the field of selection and ensured that nobody is lost to teaching work because of inability to maintain himself during the three-year period of training. The provision of training courses for teachers in the secondary schools is one of the most valuable services that can be rendered to these schools. From primary and secondary teachers alike, the response made to humble efforts to provide short refresher and specialist courses has been most encouraging and is an index of the value that will derive from courses of training for serving teachers once there are the staff and the accommodation to make these developments possible.

Progress in the building of the new Training College and the new primary schools provided for under the Colony's Development and Welfare programme awaits the arrival of final plans from Professor Thornton White, head of the School of Architecture, Capetown University. The Professor paid two visits to Mauritius during the year and brought draft plans on his second visit. The final plans are expected shortly. Whether full-scale building activity will be possible in 1948 will depend on the supply of building materials, which remains precarious.

All Mauritian students who seek training beyond the secondary school stage must go overseas. With the very high percentage of places now reserved in universities and training institutions for ex-service men, the task of placing Mauritian candidates has been more than ever difficult. Despite this 21 students have been found places in universities and training institutions overseas for courses starting in 1947. In addition, two British Council Scholarships, one Nuffield Scholarship and 16 Scholarships under the Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme or from the Colony's funds were awarded to Mauritians during the year and the scholars admitted to training institutions overseas. This is the largest number of overseas scholarships yet awarded in one year. The courses to be taken are as follows : engineering (3), nursing (4), co-operation (1), education of the blind (1), science degree (1), teacher training (2), crime investigation (1), institutional housekeeping (1), social science (1), physiotherapy (2), occupational therapy (2).

Eleven scholarships for further education and training were also awarded to Mauritians under the Colonial Office's Further Education and Vocational Training Scheme for men and women who left the Colony to go to the United Kingdom to assist in the war effort. Scholarships will also be awarded to Mauritian ex-servicemen enlisted in Mauritius whose careers have been interrupted by the war. At the end of the year a special Committee examined the 82 applications made under this scheme, interviewed candidates and made its recommendations to Government.

Cooked meals were given to some 1,500 school children daily throughout the school year. There has been no change in the diet decided upon in 1946 and it was possible to obtain condensed milk for the whole period. Now that a Nutrition Officer has been appointed the school meals programme, which is still in the experimental stage, is being reviewed to ensure accuracy in the collection of the required data and an improvement in the selection of the control schools which provide the necessary comparisons between schools receiving meals and those that do not. Experiments are also being started in other areas with a "snack" meal of supplementary food values so that it can be determined whether a small additional meal or the present cooked school meal offers the greater benefit.

The Dental Survey of 6,000 Port Louis school children made in 1946 directed attention to the low standard of dental health throughout the schools. Accordingly the Education Department placed an order for 40,000 toothbrushes for sale to schools at less than half the price of the cheapest brush obtainable locally. On their arrival a Cleaner Teeth Campaign was launched. Schools were encouraged to arrange entertainments and to raise funds for providing their pupils with toothbrushes which are kept at school to ensure daily teeth-cleaning drill. A poster competition was held in connection with the campaign and copies of the winning design printed and distributed to schools.

With the co-operation of the Medical Department the quarantine station at Cannoniers Point was made available as a holiday camp for the primary schools. After the necessary alterations had been made it proved an ideal site. For a start arrangements were made for the reception of parties of 80 children for a period of 6 days at a time and the school meals organisation was called on to look after the catering. Six hundred children attended the camp during August and September. Next year the season will be longer and the camp's capacity increased.

With the arrival of the Training College's Health Officer it has become possible to give attention to the initiation of a pilot school medical service. Apart from his duties at the Training College which include lectures on hygiene and public health problems to teacher-training students, he has been able to take over supervision of the medical investigations connected with the school meals programme and to extend his examinations to some schools outside the orbit of the nutrition experiment. A medical examination of all Royal College pupils is to follow early in 1948.

In April an Education Officer was seconded for full-time duty in connection with visual education. He had at his disposal two filmstrip projectors from the Public Relations Office and a 16-mm. sound ciné-projector on loan from the Royal College School. Later 165 filmstrips were received and these, together with 61 that had previously been given to the Education Department by the Public Relations Office and the British Council, were catalogued and used to start a lending library for the use of secondary schools having their own projectors. Demonstration exhibitions were given to other schools and considerable interest in the use of the filmstrip was aroused. The department's own ciné-projector arrived in August and it became possible to launch a programme of regular shows for the

primary schools. The Mauritius Cinema Corporation generously places its halls at Rose Hill and Port Louis at the department's disposal without charge and it is largely owing to this co-operation that film shows for the primary schools have become possible. Regular shows are also given at the Training College. This is a small start but supplies of films and filmstrips are gradually being built up. Little has yet been done for the rural schools although, by arrangement with the Public Relations Officer, the Mobile Cinema Unit gives occasional afternoon shows at village schools.

HEALTH

The senior staff of the Health Department was strengthened during 1947 by the appointment of a Pathologist, a Medical Officer, a Health Inspector, a nursing sister for the Orthopaedic Hospital at Floreal and a Superintendent of Midwives. As, however, five doctors went on overseas leave and the Director also was absent on leave until November, the precarious staffing position of this key department was not greatly relieved.

Work has started on the erection of two new wards at the Mental Hospital, Beau Bassin, and of four new wards at the Civil Hospital, Port Louis. Apart from these improvements to existing hospitals, a dental clinic has been constructed in the grounds of the Civil Hospital and is already in use for the treatment of Port Louis school children, hospital cases, police and, when time permits, members of the public who are too poor to pay for the services of a private dental practitioner. By the end of 1947 a total of 7,031 patients had received treatment at this clinic. Plans have been completed for an orthopaedic and X-ray department and for a rehabilitation centre. These two new units will be sited close to the Victoria Hospital near Quatre Bornes. The rehabilitation centre, to be paid for by public subscription, will be the Mauritius Memorial for World War II.

In addition to the existing static dispensary service, a mobile dispensary was provided and has been on the road since October, 1947. A second mobile unit is now ready to begin work. A further extension of this service will be considered if experience appears to justify it.

There were 405 cases of typhoid fever notified in 1947, as compared with 627 in 1946 and 315 in 1945. The number of persons inoculated with T.A.B. vaccine was 16,545.

The general standard of sanitation remains low, although there has been a marked improvement in the townships of Quatre Bornes, Rose Hill and Beau Bassin. Mention has been made elsewhere in this report of the visit during March by Dr. E. J. Hamlin to enquire into and report on the engineering aspect of the sewage disposal of Plaines Wilhems district. He has recommended the adoption of a single water-borne sewage disposal system for the whole district, and his scheme is now under active consideration.

Anti-malaria maintenance work was continued in the nine districts of the Colony throughout the year. The change over from the system of

“Cantonniers” (individuals employed on a part-time basis to keep certain stretches of stream clean) to the employment of whole-time gangs of labourers was completed. This has permitted a considerable extension of the area under organised control and a more effective maintenance of new works.

During the first four months of the year it was not possible to proceed with major works which had been begun in recent years, but work was restarted in May and considerable progress has been made in the districts of Port Louis, Pamplemousses, Moka and Plaines Wilhems.

Black River, the most highly infected area in the Colony, was again selected for experimental work in 1947. Four villages were chosen and, for each, one or more measures of control were instituted. It is not possible here to give a detailed account of this work, but the following notes on working methods may be of some interest to readers.

(1) *At Chamarel*, a village 1,000 feet above sea-level some two miles from the coast with a population of 390, preliminary surveys were carried out in May, 1947. The *A. funestus* mosquito breeds in numerous streams in the locality. Two methods were employed—spraying interior surfaces of all buildings with a 4·6 per cent solution of D.D.T. in kerosene and daily administration under supervision to all inhabitants of one tablet of Paludrine (100 mg.) or one half-tablet to children under five years of age.

(2) Another experimental area, *Grande Rivière Noire*, with a population of 520, is situated on the coast. Prolific breeding of *A. funestus* and *A. gambiae* occurs in the Black River and the Mi-voie Canal, while *A. gambiae* breed freely in the marshes and seepages. The spleen index in children in the 2-9 age group was found to be 100 per cent. Here the method adopted was attack on larvae by means of D.D.T. 5 per cent, resin 0·25 per cent and oil to 100 per cent.

(3) *Petite Rivière Noire Estate* situated at sea-level has *A. gambiae* as its main vector. Owing to the drought in 1947 malaria transmission here was less during the year, but in 1943 the spleen index of children on the estate was 100 per cent. In this locality a treatment of chloroquine as a prophylactic is being given in weekly doses of 0·25 grm. to adults, 0·12 grm. to children between 5 and 10 years, and 0·06 grm. to children of between two and five years. The drug is administered by the manager of the estate in person.

(4) *Baie du Cap Estate (Staub)*, 500 feet above sea-level, is at the southern extremity of Black River district. The population was 176 on 21st November. The spleen index on that date for all ages was 61 per cent, for the 2-9 age group 76 per cent, and the 10-14 age group 85·7 per cent.

Here prophylaxis is being tried by paludrine administered twice weekly under supervision of the manager. Control villages have been selected for purposes of comparison.

The experiment at the Mental Hospital to which reference was made in Chapter VII of the Annual Report for 1946 was completed. Paludrine and S.N. 7618-5 were administered to patients in weekly doses of 0·1 grm.

and 0.25 grm. respectively. The results of blood examinations are shown in the following table :

Date	27.11.46 and 2.12.46			3.3.47			9.6.47		
	Total Examined	Parasite Index	Carrier Rate	Total Examined	Parasite Index	Carrier Rate	Total Examined	Parasite Index	Carrier Rate
Control . .	196	9.7%	0.51%	192	2.6%	1.04%	182	4.95%	1.1%
Paludrine .	195	5.64%	Neg.	192	Neg.	Neg.	172	1.74%	0.58%
S.N. 7618-5	200	5.74%	Neg.	188	Neg.	Neg.	158	Neg.	Neg.

The number of cases of anaemia necessitating admission to hospital has been on the decrease : 1,517 in 1947 as compared with 2,068 in 1946, whilst the dispensary attendances show an increase : 12,625 in 1947 against 10,835 in 1946. The incidence of deficiency diseases has increased : 629 cases treated in hospital against 520 in 1946 and 4,509 attendances at dispensaries in 1947 against 954 in 1946.

The question of supplying food yeast to the population is being considered. In addition to the local production of yeast tablets, 5,000,000 food yeast tablets were imported from Jamaica and are being sold through retailers at a low cost. The extent to which food yeast powder can be incorporated in foods generally used is being investigated.

HOUSING

Out of some 88,000 buildings in Mauritius, 33,000 thatched and 21,000 partially thatched huts are the homes of the poorer section of the population. These huts are cramped and badly lighted, but despite their generally unhygienic construction they are for the most part kept in a very clean state. For many years the Government has been conscious of the need to eliminate the slum areas in the towns and to improve the housing standards of the poor in the rural districts and on the estate camps. Funds have been allocated for the purpose but the need for comprehensive planning and the shortage of building materials, which still persists, have delayed an all-out attack on this problem. Some of the more progressive estates have already made an independent start on estate housing for their monthly-employed labour force, but the majority await a decision on the policy to be adopted by Government in connection with the Rs. 6,000,000 available for the reconstruction of estate housing.

In 1946 a town-planning officer from the Government of Rhodesia visited the Colony. Professor Thornton White, F.R.I.B.A., head of the Capetown University School of Architecture, visited the Colony for the first time in January-February, 1947, to advise on town planning and slum clearance. He returned in September, accompanied by Mr. Leo Silberman of the Social Science Department of the University of Liverpool.

The latter carried out a social survey of a cross-section of the population of Port Louis, and the Professor was engaged on preparing a master plan for the development of the capital.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Mauritius has experienced more than two centuries of civilisation, the greater part of this period under British rule. Social welfare has developed in the Colony with the growth of the customary colonial government services and the pioneer activities of unofficial societies.

Social welfare, in the more technical sense ascribed to the term nowadays, refers to a group of activities which do not exactly fall within the scope of ordinary state services and which cannot entirely be left to the initiative of amateur social workers. For example, the Scout and Guide movements are well established in Mauritius, but no youth organisation has yet been sponsored by public or local administration as it is now done in Britain.

In Mauritius there is a growing recognition that specialised social workers, specially trained for the purpose, are now needed to cope with modern social problems. In accordance with that principle, carefully chosen Mauritian civil servants have been sent to England to study social science and to undergo adequate training. A small team of such specialists, attached to various government departments, are now working towards the advancement of social welfare in the more technical sense. This new development is still in the experimental stage.

Excluding the local administration of one municipality and three townships, the public administration of the Colony has hitherto been too centralised. This deficiency has been met by the appointment of two Civil Commissioners to supervise the general administration of the rural districts. Provision was also made for a third post of Civil Commissioner, but the appointment had not been taken up by the end of 1947. The Civil Commissioners will also control the activities of social welfare workers in the same way as such activities are controlled by local authorities in Britain. Towards the end of the year a Social Welfare Advisory Board was in process of formation to co-ordinate all social welfare activities, both governmental and non-governmental, in the Colony.

Promotion of Community Life

Communal organisation in Mauritius is hampered by the heterogeneous nature of its peoples and the diversity of their racial and cultural origins. Europe, Africa and Asia have contributed to the ethnic groups, complicated by interbreeding, that form the population of Mauritius. The influence of the radio, press and cinema has further complicated the development of community life by introducing an element of sophistication amongst the town-dwellers, so that it is only in the rural areas, with their predominant Indian population, that any real progress can be looked for. Baitkis and panchayats have been in existence for many years, but they have been rather limited in their scope, and a more up-to-date means of dealing with local problems has been lacking. This gap

is now being filled by the creation of village councils. They have no legal status as yet as the whole system must be thoroughly tested by actual practice, but under the guidance of the Civil Commissioners they are to be given progressively the privileges and obligations of local authorities, especially with regard to sanitation. By the end of 1947, 40 village councils were in operation, of which 23 were in the north of the island and 17 in the south. Despite the urging of some prominent unofficials, no attempt has been made to impose the councils on the villagers compulsorily: the emphasis has been and will continue to be on spontaneous development. No grants-in-aid have yet been made to any of them but assistance of a minor nature may be given in 1948 to those councils who have shown some ability to conduct their own affairs.

Relief of the Destitute and Disabled

In July, 1947, the Poor Law branch of the Labour Department began to function as an independent service under the title of the Public Assistance Department. The change was designed to mark a departure from the old system of administering relief through money grants made to the poor, to the modern principle of rehabilitation of the destitute.

The reorganisation of the Department involved the partial decentralisation of the administration of poor relief, through the appointment of local Public Assistance Committees all over the Island. Although these Committees, on which all sections of the community are represented, have no executive powers, most of their recommendations are in fact accepted by Head Office. Meetings are held weekly or fortnightly and besides examining the report of the relieving officer, members are able to visit the applicants for and recipients of relief in their own homes. The Public Assistance Committees formed a federate body composed of the Presidents of all the regional organisations, and this body met several times in the year to discuss general policy. They worked in close collaboration with the voluntary welfare societies.

With the establishment of the local committees, many more cases of hidden poverty came to light. The expenditure of poor relief was therefore higher than in preceding years; other causes of the rise in the cost of relief were due to demobilisation, to the increase in the cost of living and to the growing consciousness among the community that the poor must be looked after in a more substantial manner. Rs. 618,993 was spent on outdoor relief in 1947.

In the 15 Public Assistance Institutions, which are all managed by religious bodies, considerable improvement in the diet of the inmates was made as a result of investigations carried out by the Nutrition Officer. The capitation grants both in respect of adults and of children were raised by about 20 per cent. Special attention was given to the upbringing of destitute orphans. In order to lessen the rigours of institutional life, each of them was provided with a "god-mother". Public response to the "god-mother" scheme has been most encouraging and it is hoped that much lasting good will result thereby to these destitute children. During Easter and the Christmas and New Year holidays, festivals were



GOVERNMENT HOUSE, PORT LOUIS
The Executive and Legislative Councils meet in this building

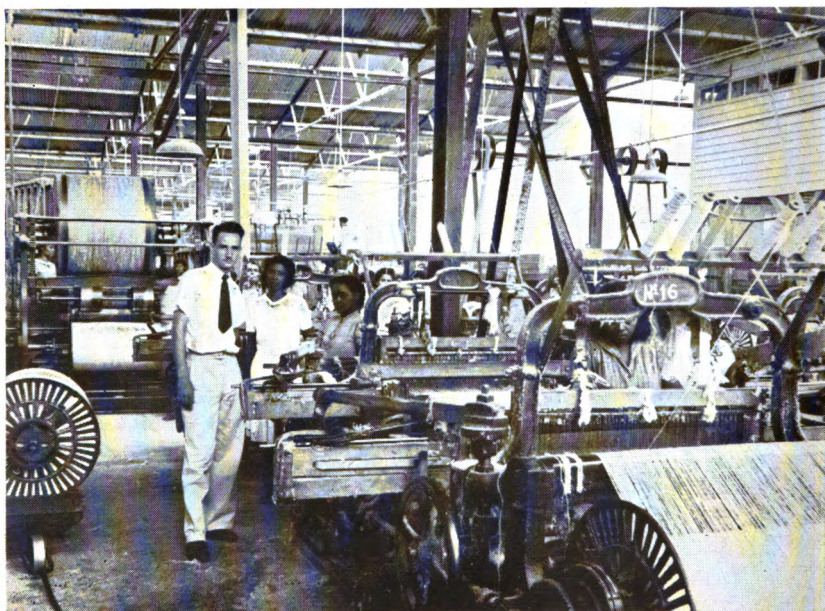


THE ROYAL ALFRED OBSERVATORY AT PAMPLEMOUSSES



ESTATE LABOURER'S HOUSE

Built in 1947 on a local sugar estate as part of its rehousing scheme



GOVERNMENT SACK FACTORY, QUATRE BORNES



PRIMARY SCHOOL HOLIDAY CAMP AT CANNONIERS' POINT

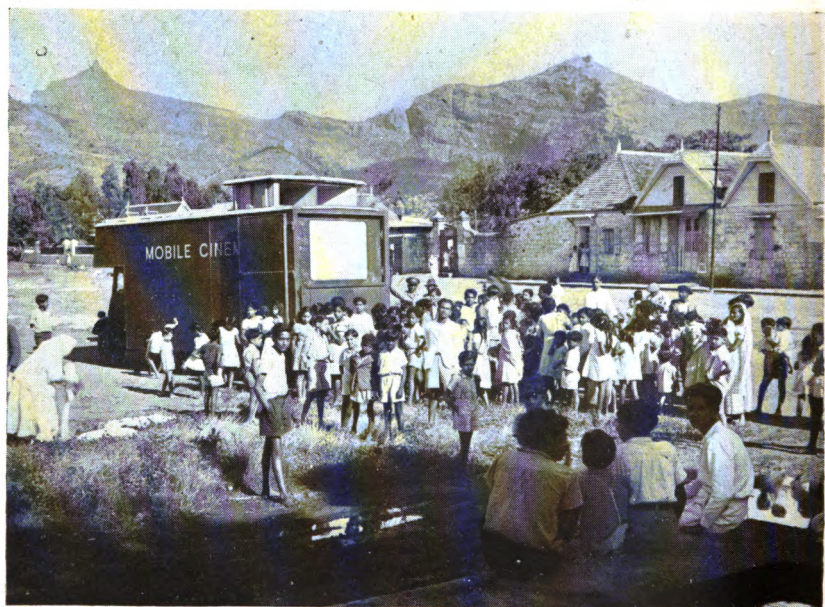


SCHOOL MEALS STAFF PREPARING LUNCH



MOBILE DISPENSARY

The first unit of a fleet designed to serve the remote rural districts



THE MOBILE CINEMA UNIT

During 1947 over 420,000 people saw mobile cinema shows in the rural districts

organised in all the institutions, the cost of which was borne mostly by private donors.

Subsidies to the Public Assistance Institutions amounted to Rs. 184,856.67 in 1947. The grant from outdoor relief funds to the Maternity and Child Welfare Society amounted to Rs. 41,179.26, and the welfare of the blind continued to receive the active support of the Department. A grant of Rs. 6,000 was made to the School for the Blind which is managed by a committee under the chairmanship of Major the Honourable Dr. A. de Chazal. The majority of those who attend the school come from the Public Assistance Institutions. A blind Mauritian is being trained by the London Institute for the Blind and on his return he will be attached to the school as an instructor.

Staff training was an important feature of the reorganisation of the Public Assistance Department. Lectures were given once a week at the Royal College on social science. The first-year course ended in August and in the examination which followed 95 per cent of the students—which also included some members of the Education Department—were successful. Ten cadets were appointed in November. They are being trained in the practice and theory of social welfare. Two other members of the Department are undergoing training as social workers in England.

A social survey of certain selected villages was started in December with the help of the officers of the Medical Department. The report of the survey should provide a basis for the introduction of further social welfare services in the Colony.

Juvenile Delinquency

Statistics for the past decade show an annual average of about 400 cases of juvenile delinquency coming before the Juvenile Courts. Of these about 10 per cent are cases of vagrancy, another 10 per cent of "wounds and blows", 40 per cent are concerned with larceny, embezzlement and housebreaking, 20 per cent with praedial larceny and plundering of foodcrops and the rest, comprising such offences as contraventions, fishing in reserves and market offences, are usually dealt with by fines. Sentences meted out vary from dismissal with a caution to birching or a period of detention in the Industrial School.

Increasing importance is being placed on the need of thoroughly investigating each case of juvenile delinquency, and Magistrates are now supplied with the results of an enquiry into the home of each boy, and with a recommendation from the Superintendent of Prisons as to the treatment of boys placed on remand.

Probation Services

The Probation of Offenders Ordinance, passed in 1946, was brought into force this year. In July control over the Probation Officers was transferred from the Superintendent of Prisons to the Master and Registrar, Supreme Court, but the Superintendent of Prisons continued to act, in both an official and personal capacity, as a member of the Probation Committee and as adviser to the Master and the Probation Officers.

The probation system has had an initial success in the three District Court areas in which it has been applied. It is consequently proposed to extend it in the near future to two other areas and to increase the present probation staff (consisting of one man and one woman) by the appointment of two male assistant Probation Officers. Juvenile cases are heard by District Magistrates in Chambers either before or after a session of the adult Court.

Chapter 8 : Legislation

Sixty-nine Ordinances were passed by the Council of Government and assented to by the Governor during the year 1947.

The majority of these Ordinances deal with matters of domestic concern of which the following are the more important :

The Education (Amendment) Ordinance, 1947 (No. 1 of 1947) amending the Education Ordinance, 1944 (No. 12 of 1944).

In 1949 the English Scholarships for Royal College students will be awarded for the first time on the results of the Cambridge Higher School Certificate examination which will be held at the end of 1948. The course of studies for that examination covers two years : it will replace the one-year course hitherto followed in the English Scholarship class.

The Royal College students who will qualify for the English Scholarship class on the results of the School Certificate examination held in December, 1946, will complete the two-year course at the end of 1948 and, if otherwise qualified, will sit for the examination under the new syllabus.

This Ordinance was passed to preserve the accrued rights of those students who had qualified for and entered the English Scholarship class before 1947 and who will still be eligible for the Scholarships to be awarded in 1949 and 1950. It provides for the special examination to be held at the end of 1948 and 1949 in respect of those students and for the award of additional scholarships.

The Diplomatic Privileges Ordinance, 1947 (No. 4 of 1947).

This Ordinance follows the lines of the Diplomatic Privileges (Extension) Act, 1944, as amended by the Diplomatic Privileges (Extension) Act, 1946.

It confers upon the Governor the power by Order to confer diplomatic privileges and immunities upon international organisations which have been or may be declared by Order in Council to be organisations of which His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom is a member, as well as upon certain persons concerned with those organisations. There was no provision previously in Mauritius in respect of the privileges already accorded by the Home Government.

The Immigration (Control) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1947 (No. 8 of 1947) amending the Immigration (Control) Ordinance, 1939 (No. 34 of 1939).

This Ordinance provides for the appointment of an adequate number of Immigration Officers, in view of the gradual resumption of immigration and emigration on the prewar scale. It also empowers the Governor to prescribe a fee to be paid by the owner or agent of a ship or aircraft, as the case may be, to an Immigration Officer whose attendance is required at any port or air port on public holidays, or outside normal working hours on other days.

The Cyclone and Drought Insurance Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 1947 (No. 13 of 1947).

This Ordinance amends the Cyclone and Drought Insurance Fund Ordinance, 1946 (Ordinance No. 53 of 1946) in the following respects :

- (a) the year 1946 is added to the years excluded as normal years ;
- (b) the expenses of administration of the Cyclone and Drought Insurance Fund are henceforth to be defrayed by the assets of the Fund instead of by the general revenue of the Colony ; and
- (c) the Mauritius Sugar Syndicate is empowered to pay to the Fund all premium due by the contributors without thereby incurring any liability.

The Borstal Institution Ordinance, 1947 (No. 15 of 1947).

This Ordinance has introduced the Borstal system in the Colony. Subject to adaptations and modifications which were called for by local circumstances, it is virtually a replica of those provisions of the Prevention of Crime Act, 1908, whereby, in England, the establishment of Borstal Institutions was achieved.

The District Courts Execution (Amendment) Ordinance, 1947 (No. 17 of 1947).

This Ordinance has set up a system under which persons who are unable to pay the fines and costs imposed upon them may, instead of having to undergo imprisonment, be ordered by the convicting Magistrate to be employed upon work of a nature prescribed by Regulations made by the Governor.

The Civil Status (Amendment) Ordinance, 1947 (No. 23 of 1947) amending the Civil Status Ordinance, 1890 (No. 26 of 1890).

In order to ensure a proper statistical survey of the health of the Colony and to check cases of deaths occurring as a result of crime or of culpable acts or omissions, this Ordinance provides for the compulsory production to the Civil Status Officer of a medical certificate of the cause of death before a burial permit is issued.

The Graduated Poll Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1947 (No. 25 of 1947).

This Ordinance was enacted to afford relief from double taxation in relation to income tax or any tax of a similar character by a system of reciprocal arrangements which may be entered into between the Government of this Colony and the Government of any other Territory.

The Life Assurance Companies (Amendment) Ordinance, 1947 (No. 34 of 1947) amending the Life Assurance Companies Ordinance, 1939 (No. 37 of 1939).

Under the Life Assurance Companies Ordinance, 1939, life assurance companies carrying on business in the United Kingdom and having made the deposit required by the laws in force there were exempted from making any further deposit if they wished to carry on business in the Colony.

The amending Ordinance was introduced as a result of the passing of the United Kingdom Assurance Companies Act, 1946, to ensure that life assurance companies carrying on business in the United Kingdom shall not, on the withdrawal of their deposit in accordance with the provisions of that Act, be compelled to make a deposit for carrying on business in the Colony.

The Courts (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance, 1947 (No. 35 of 1947) amending the Courts Ordinance, 1945 (No. 5 of 1945).

This Ordinance has introduced a few amendments to the Courts Ordinance, 1945, the most important being that the eligibility for appointment to the office of Magistrate should no longer be restricted to barristers of not less than five years standing at the Bar, the Governor being empowered to appoint any fit and proper person to fill that office.

The Labour (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance, 1947 (No. 36 of 1947) amending the Labour Ordinance, 1938 (No. 47 of 1938).

By this Ordinance, restrictions have been imposed upon the issue of licences to job-contractors. Hitherto, licences were often issued to undesirable persons who, either through misconduct or by want of the necessary knowledge and experience, exposed workers to the risk of sustaining injuries if not of losing their lives. Licences will no more be issued unless the applicant holds a permit from the Labour Commissioner who, moreover, may attach to any permit conditions with which the licensee shall have to comply.

"The Welfare of the Blind Society" Incorporation Ordinance, 1947 (No. 42 of 1947).

Several persons have for some years devoted themselves to and contributed funds for the training and well-being of blind persons and a Committee has recently been appointed for the formation of

a Society for the Welfare of the Blind. This Ordinance was passed to give a legal status to the Society and to empower it to hold and possess property and to carry on its activities in its corporate capacity.

The Civil Status (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance, 1947 (No. 59 of 1947) amending the Civil Status Ordinance, 1890 (No. 26 of 1890).

The main object of this Ordinance is to provide for the possibility of birth certificates being issued at a reduced fee and in a shortened form from which any reference to parentage or adoption shall be omitted.

The Civil Partnership (Publicity) Ordinance, 1947 (No. 60 of 1947).

Hitherto no publicity was given to deeds constituting civil partnerships (*sociétés civiles*) ; there was consequently no means of knowing who was the manager and who were the partners of such a partnership, or in the case of dissolution, who were the liquidators, and difficulties consequently arose whenever claims were sought to be enforced against civil partnerships. This Ordinance has remedied the situation by subjecting civil partnerships to the same form of publicity as commercial partnerships.

The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Ordinance, 1947 (No. 64 of 1947) amending the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, 1931 (No. 13 of 1931).

The amendments introduced by this Ordinance to the local legislation relating to compensation payable to workmen for injuries sustained in the course of their employment are the outcome of experience gained and of recommendations made by the Labour Adviser to the Colonial Office.

The main changes are the following :

- (a) the minimum duration of incapacity entitling a workman to compensation has been reduced from seven to three days ;
- (b) the time within which compensation may be claimed has been extended from three to six months ; and
- (c) the percentage of the loss of earning capacity in the case of injuries more commonly sustained by workmen has been specifically laid down to facilitate the calculation of compensation in the majority of cases.

The Emergency Laws (Transitional Provisions) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1947 (No. 62 of 1947).

By this Ordinance the date of expiry of certain Defence Regulations, enacted during the war, which had been continued in force by the Emergency Laws (Transitional Provisions) Ordinance, 1946 until 31st December, 1947, has been changed to 31st December, 1950.

The Employment Exchanges Ordinance, 1947 (No. 67 of 1947).

This Ordinance provides for the setting up of the machinery for

the purpose of collecting and furnishing information respecting employers who desire to engage workpeople and workpeople who seek engagement or employment.

The Trade Disputes Ordinance, 1947 (No. 68 of 1947).

This Ordinance was passed with the object of bringing the law regarding trade disputes into line with the English law, and of giving larger responsibilities to employers and workers.

Hitherto no strike or lock-out was legal till the Government had taken overt action; now Government must be informed, but need not take action if it does not consider its intervention would serve a useful purpose.

Chapter 9 : Justice, Police and Prisons

JUSTICE

The laws of Mauritius are mainly based on the French "Code Napoleon"; the Civil Code, the Penal Code, the Code of Commerce and the Code of Civil Procedure, with some amendments to suit local conditions, are still in force in the Island.

The Local Bankruptcy Law, Law of Evidence, and Law of Civil Procedure are, however, mostly English as well as the whole system of Labour Law recently introduced into the Colony.

The highest judicial authority is the Supreme Court of Judicature presided over by the Chief Justice, assisted by two Puisne Judges. The executive officer of that Court is the Master and Registrar who is at the same time the Judge of the Bankruptcy Division of the Court.

The Supreme Court is a superior Court of Record and has the same powers, authority and jurisdiction as His Majesty's Court of King's Bench in England. It is also a Court of Equity and has Admiralty jurisdiction. It possesses an appellate jurisdiction over the judgments of all the other Courts of the Colony and those of the Supreme Court of the Colony of Seychelles. Judgments of the Supreme Court are appealable to the Privy Council.

The District Magistrates of the Colony try the less important civil and criminal cases whether sitting as a Bench (three Magistrates together) or alone.

There is also an Industrial Court which has jurisdiction in all labour disputes, including workmen's compensation and matters arising out of factory legislation.

A resident District Magistrate administers justice in the dependency of Rodrigues and a visiting Magistrate makes an annual inspection of each of the lesser dependencies.

In 1945 the Magistracy, which was formerly under the administrative control of the Procureur-General, passed under the control of the Chief Justice.

The provision of the law laying down that District Magistrates should

be chosen from among barristers of at least five years' standing was repealed in 1947 owing to the difficulties experienced in securing the services of suitable persons possessing the necessary qualifications. Several appointments have been made under the new conditions.

The probation system, introduced in the Colony at the end of 1946, was applied during 1947 in certain districts only. It is too early yet to gauge its results accurately, but the Magistrates in whose districts the system is in force have found the assistance of the Probation Officer most helpful.

Another important measure has been the introduction in the Colony of the Borstal system which is to work on lines similar to those established in England by the Prevention of Crime Act, 1908.

The number of cases heard by the Supreme Court has not varied greatly, but there has been a noticeable increase—especially as regards criminal cases—in the number of cases heard by the District Courts which have had to try about half as many cases again as last year.

Matters coming before the Industrial Court either for disposal in Court or for discussion and settlement in Chambers, have also increased in number.

POLICE

History

Legislation passed in 1766 points to the existence of a Police Unit of some kind in Mauritius at that time. Many legal enactments were issued dealing with different aspects of the policing of the Colony until a proclamation dated 1st July, 1816, was published creating the first corps of "gendarmerie" under the British administration.

The Police Force, as it is organised to-day, appears to have been the result of the recommendations of a Commission of Enquiry appointed in 1859 which amalgamated the Police and the Municipal Police under one superior command bearing the title of the Inspector-General of Police. This title survived until it was replaced by that of Commissioner of Police in 1934.

Commissions of Enquiry were instituted from time to time to bring about an improvement in the organisation of the Mauritius Police Force and successive Commissioners have worked hard to improve the standard, efficiency and discipline of the Police and to raise its status.

The Police Ordinance giving effect to the report of the 1859 Commission was subsequently replaced by the Police Ordinance of 1893 which, after 55 years, and though amended from time to time, is still in force. This Ordinance regulates the organisation, discipline, powers and duties of the Force, the enlistment, engagement and re-engagement of police officers and the conditions of service of members of the Force.

The Mauritius Police Force is a typical cross-section of the population of the Island: the three communities, Indian, Coloured and White, comprising the population, are adequately represented in the Force, and the three languages, Hindi, Creole and French, are in daily use. While all Indo-Mauritian members of the Force speak Creole, a very small

percentage of the Coloured (Creole) members and none of the Franco-Mauritian members speak Hindi.

It is the aim of all Commissioners of Police, with the assistance of the small staff of English officers attached to the Force, to train the members of the Force on the same lines as the training given to Forces in England, and still more, to endeavour to inculcate into the local policeman the characteristics of the English "Bobby", tact, patience, tolerance, good humour, initiative and the ability to rely on his own judgment and resources.

As is the case in all parts of the Empire to-day, far more is expected of the police officer in Mauritius than was the case 25 to 50 years ago. It no longer suffices for him to be a strong burly policeman with illiteracy no handicap to the performance of his duties. With the spread of education and political consciousness among the population, with the advent of the machine, wireless, aeroplanes, and so on, the policeman, even in this remote part of the Empire, has to be educated, intelligent and possessed of a high degree of civic responsibility if he is to play his part properly.

Establishment

The Force has an establishment of 26 gazetted officers and 725 other ranks, all of whom are locally born, with the exception of 9 officers who are posted from England or transferred from other Colonial Forces. There are 20 police women on the permanent establishment of the Force who are solely employed on clerical duties.

Distribution of Personnel

The personnel of the Force is distributed among :

- (a) Headquarters Staff
- (b) Criminal Investigation Department
- (c) Six districts with 42 stations between them
- (d) Revenue and Weights and Measures Branch
- (e) Road Traffic Branch
- (f) Training Centre
- (g) Pay and Quartermaster's Branch
- (h) Railway Police
- (i) Band
- (j) Rodrigues (a dependency of Mauritius).

Police Headquarters

The Commissioner of Police has his Headquarters in Port Louis and is assisted there by his Deputy and various other officers.

At Headquarters, there are a number of special branches of the Force each under the command of a Superintendent or other officer. These are the Criminal Investigation Department, Stores, Armoury, Pay, Revenue Branch and Traffic Branch.

The Forensic Science Laboratory at Le Reduit is under the charge of the Police Medical Officer.

The Band, under the charge of a qualified Bandmaster who has the rank of Superintendent, is accommodated in Rose Hill.

Police Districts

Although geographically the Colony is divided into 9 Districts, for the purposes of police administration the Colony is divided into 6 Police Districts.

The districts of Port Louis and Curepipe, which are the most important residential areas, each constitute one Police District, while the remaining districts are grouped together into 4 country police districts. A Superintendent assisted by an Assistant Superintendent is in charge of each Police District and is responsible to the Commissioner of Police for the efficient enforcement of law and order in his District.

To facilitate police work generally and to help in the speedy prevention and detection of crime, Police Districts are subdivided into divisions; each division is controlled by a police station which is under the command of a n.c.o. or senior constable. There are 42 stations in the island, their strength varying from 18 to 3 men.

The Criminal Investigation Department and Crime

To the Criminal Investigation Department are attached the Fingerprint and Modus Operandi Bureau, the Photographic section, the Immigration section and the Central Registry of Habitual Criminals. The Forensic Science Laboratory under the charge of the Police Medical Officer plays an important part in the detection of crime.

The total number of crimes, misdemeanours and contraventions dealt with by the Police during 1947 was 41,026 and the average for the past five years was 27,970.

More than half of these cases were of minor character and included such items as breaches of traffic and revenue laws, petty thefts, trivial assaults and disturbances. The crime figure for 1947 shows an increase of 24 per cent over that of the previous year. The root causes of this state of affairs are to be found in the existence of a black market and the steadily increasing cost of living and unemployment. It has been observed that many men who have been discharged from the military forces find it difficult to settle down in civilian life or refuse to accept the type of work which they had performed before enlistment.

There has been a slight decrease in the number of juvenile delinquents, largely attributable to the various social reforms which are taking place in the island, but the main remedy will continue to depend on education and parental control.

New dockets were introduced for the registration of habitual criminals, to make provision for additional information to facilitate the control and supervision of criminals, and to eliminate certain defects in the old system.

Recruiting and Training

The Police Training School is in charge of a Superintendent who is responsible to the Commissioner for the enlistment and training of recruits

and the training of n.c.o.s and constables under promotion or refresher courses.

Recruits have to undergo a medical examination and a simple educational test before being accepted and posted to the Training School. In the course of the year, it was decided that the three months training period should be increased to six months as the former period was found too short for recruits to absorb the whole syllabus.

Recruits are not passed out of the training centre until they have obtained a pass in the following subjects: general police duties, law, local and general knowledge, French, English, first aid, life saving, physical training, foot drill, musketry and riot drill.

It was hoped that with the return to the Colony of a large number of men from war service the recruiting of the right type of man would improve, but this hope was not realised during the year under review. Higher salaries earned in private and commercial concerns where better conditions of pay and service are offered continue to attract the young man who has completed his education, and until conditions of pay and service in the Police are brought up to a comparable standard the difficulty of obtaining recruits of the pre-war type will persist. This is a poor augury for the future of the Force.

The Road Traffic and Prevention of Traffic Offences

Traffic contraventions during 1947 show a 25 per cent increase over the figures for 1946. This is partly due to a marked increase in the number of private cars, lorries and buses now on the road. It is intended to make the public traffic conscious by means of lectures in schools, by radio broadcasts and by articles in the press. Much remains to be done before motorists and pedestrians alike learn that each owes the duty of care to the other.

The use of hand and bullock carts is a constant cause of congestion on roads which are not wide enough to carry slow and fast streams of traffic, and motorists frequently attempt to ease the congestion by committing the cardinal error of "cutting in" in the face of fast-moving traffic travelling in the opposite direction.

Traffic conditions on the roads in Mauritius are such that a very high standard of driving is necessary if accidents are to be avoided. The purpose and practice of traffic personnel is not primarily to report offences against traffic laws but to prevent such offences as far as they possibly can and to teach driving discipline and road courtesy.

The Revenue Branch

This Branch is responsible for the proper control of all inland revenue derived from licences and taxes, and exercises supervision over liquor, weights and measures and dangerous drugs such as opium and gandia.

Transport and Communication

The Force is as mobile as funds permit and in these days of modern transport, mobility is the very essence of good and prompt police action

here as elsewhere. It possesses five lorries, five cars, 12 motor-cycles, three wireless vans and six patrol vans. By these means it is possible to transport 300 men at short notice to any part of the island.

In addition to the wireless vans, communications are maintained by telephone and by despatch riders. Two stations are still without telephones; but every effort is being made to connect them.

All branches and police stations are provided with bicycles, the total number now in use being 124 compared with 106 in 1946.

During the year, the Force acquired 5 station wagons, one car and 6 motor-cycles. The acquisition of these new vehicles has enabled the workshop staff of the Force to overhaul many of the older vehicles.

A police workshop is maintained for the servicing and repair of all motor vehicles belonging to the Force, and for the control of issues of fuel, lubricants, tyres, stores, etc., in connection with these vehicles.

A new police launch built by Messrs. Taylor Smith and Co. was launched on 29th December, 1947, and handed over for duty the following day. This craft will supply a long-felt need in Port Louis Harbour and greatly facilitate duties of water policing.

Library

The Library, which contains 12,414 volumes (novels, science, biographies, reference books, etc.), is available for use by all ranks. Books and papers are imported regularly from England and France.

Games and Recreation

As much time off as possible is given for the playing of games and recreation generally. The Force possess good hockey and association football teams. Inter-district games and games against outside teams are frequently arranged. Police Sports and a concert are held annually.

Officers, n.c.o.s and constables each have their own mess or recreation room supplied with radio, billiards, draughts and other means of relaxation.

Weapons and Equipment

In February, 1947, the Force was re-equipped with S.M.L.E. .303 Mk. I rifles in place of the U.S. .303 rifles with which it was armed during the war. In pursuance of the policy decided upon last year, rifles were only issued to selected personnel forming part of headquarters or district armed parties, the remainder being held in reserve in the armoury.

In order to keep all members of the Force up to standard in arms drill and musketry training, it was decided that each district in turn should draw a full issue of rifles and bayonets from the armoury and undergo six weeks' training in arms at weekly drill parades. This was begun in January and by October all uniformed members of the Force had undergone a six-weeks' course of training.

Regular weekly training of armed parties in firing practices and fire

control under orders for action in civil disturbances was carried out on the miniature range, Line Barracks, during the first six months of the year.

Every member of the rank and file is provided with a baton which is the policeman's first weapon of defence and offence; armed parties are only used as a last resort.

Tear-gas equipment is also available for use in civil disturbances.

First Aid

Steady progress has been made in this direction. Courses of instruction in first aid were given to members of the Police Force. Ten members of the Railway Department and the Fire Brigade attended the last course. All the lectures were delivered in accordance with the regulations of the St. John Ambulance Brigade Overseas. Examinations were held in July and October, 1947, and 46 members of the Police Force are now qualified and are holders of the St. John certificate. A Mauritius Police Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade Overseas has been formed and registered at the Overseas Headquarters in England.

It has been decided that not less than three courses of lectures and examinations will be held every year for the qualifying of new candidates and that refresher courses will be given to the qualified members followed by re-examinations, so as to maintain the necessary standard of knowledge in first aid. By this means it is hoped that the Police Force will soon have as many members as possible qualified and efficient to render first aid to the injured.

Cinema Film Censorship

The Commissioner of Police is the Chairman of the Board of Censors, all of whose records are kept at Police Headquarters. The Board examined 393 films in 1947 as compared with 323 in 1946. The majority of these films came from Madagascar and Réunion. A few films were also received from the United Kingdom and America.

The Board continued to adhere to the policy that films released for public exhibition should conform with proper standards of decency and morality and that nothing likely to prejudice the safety of the state or law and order should be exhibited.

Health of the Force

A great effort has been made during the year to improve the health of the Force in general. It is necessary to emphasise the importance of this improvement in a year which has provided very little betterment in other conditions of service, such as housing and cost of living, as it is a factor greatly affecting all-round efficiency.

The Police Band

The Police Band made striking progress during the year under its newly-appointed Bandmaster. The public has not been slow to notice and to comment upon the extent of the improvement achieved within the short space of a year.

The newly formed Police Dance Orchestra made its first public appearance in December and met with an enthusiastic reception. It can be said without any question of doubt that the dance band, which has supplied a long-felt need in the Colony, is already assured of a very successful future. The full band, its wind quintet and the dance orchestra have begun regular broadcasts over the Mauritius Broadcasting Service.

The Police Canteen

The administration of the police canteen is under the supervision of a committee of police officers appointed annually by the Commissioner of Police; this Committee is under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner of Police, and its accounts are regularly audited by a qualified civilian auditor.

General Information

A new police register, the General Information Register, was introduced into all stations and district headquarters with the object of providing classified, readily available information relating to the station area or district.

Uniforms

Blue uniforms for the other ranks of the force for winter wear were introduced. The supplies of blue serge available did not permit of a complete issue for the whole force, but a gradual change-over to the more distinctive uniform of a traditional colour will be made for wear in the period from 1st May to 30th September as supplies permit.

The Police Museum

The Police Museum which was closed during the war was re-established at the C.I.D. Exhibits in connection with important cases, firearms and offensive weapons have been received from various sources and the museum now possesses a fine collection which should be of interest not only to members of the Force but also to the general public.

PRISONS

From 1945 the Prisons and Industrial School have been separated from the Police Department and placed under the control of a Superintendent of Prisons. The penal reform initiated towards the end of the war period was continued this year by the passage of two new ordinances. Borstal institutions similar to those operating in the United Kingdom have been provided for by Ordinance 15 of 1947, and the extra-mural employment of persons in lieu of imprisonment for non-payment of fines has been made possible by Ordinance 17 of 1947.

Both these ordinances have already been put into effect. A Borstal Institution has been opened at Grand River North West, on the outskirts of Port Louis, in the old prison buildings in this locality. The former occupants have been transferred to the principal prison at Beau Bassin. It is intended to move the women prisoners also from the prison at Port

Louis to that at Beau Bassin. Work on the new women's quarters at Beau Bassin has been started with prison labour and the change-over is expected to take place during 1948. The new buildings which have been designed conjointly by the Superintendent of Prisons and the Public Works Department aim at providing improved segregation between women and girls under the age of 21.

An account of the operation of the probation system, in which the Superintendent of Prisons is closely involved, is given in Chapter VII in the sections dealing with juvenile delinquency and probation services.

The Prisons Department continued to operate the orthopædic workshop referred to in the 1946 Annual Report for the making of appliances for poliomyelitis victims. Splints, boots and other appliances were also made for patients sent by the Labour Department. The Assistant Superintendent of Prisons, who went to England in 1946 to follow a course in the making of appliances, worked there under the general direction of Professor Seddon of the Wingfield Morris Orthopædic Hospital at Oxford. He returned in the early part of 1947 and resumed charge of the orthopædic workshop in Port Louis prison.

Prison statistics for the last five years are as follows :

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Total admissions	4,004	4,668	3,225	2,860	2,573
Convicted admissions	2,606	2,596	2,153	2,028	1,973
Death Sentences (executed)	1	—	—	6	—
Reprieves	—	—	—	3	—
Corporal punishment	—	2	2	—	—
Deaths, excluding executions	17	7	14	15	10
Escapes	90	53	49	15	15
Daily average in prison	580	559	550	565	517

This variation can be accounted for by the abnormal conditions caused by the war, which have produced crime waves in other places besides Mauritius. The continuance of a high daily average despite the fall in the number of convictions is due to the increased number of long sentences awarded during the latter part of the war.

Chapter 10 : Public Utilities

WATER SUPPLIES

(Domestic, Irrigation and Hydro-electric)

Mauritius at present has a main reservoir at Mare-aux-Vacoas in the central plateau south of Curepipe, and two subsidiary storage reservoirs, La Ferme in Black River district, fed by Mare-aux-Vacoas, and La Nicolière in the north of the island. The latter is supplied by a 17-mile feeder canal from Midlands dam, constructed in 1931 as part of a big

reservoir scheme. A new reservoir to supply water for domestic consumption is under construction at Mare Longue, also in the south central

MAP OF MAURITIUS.

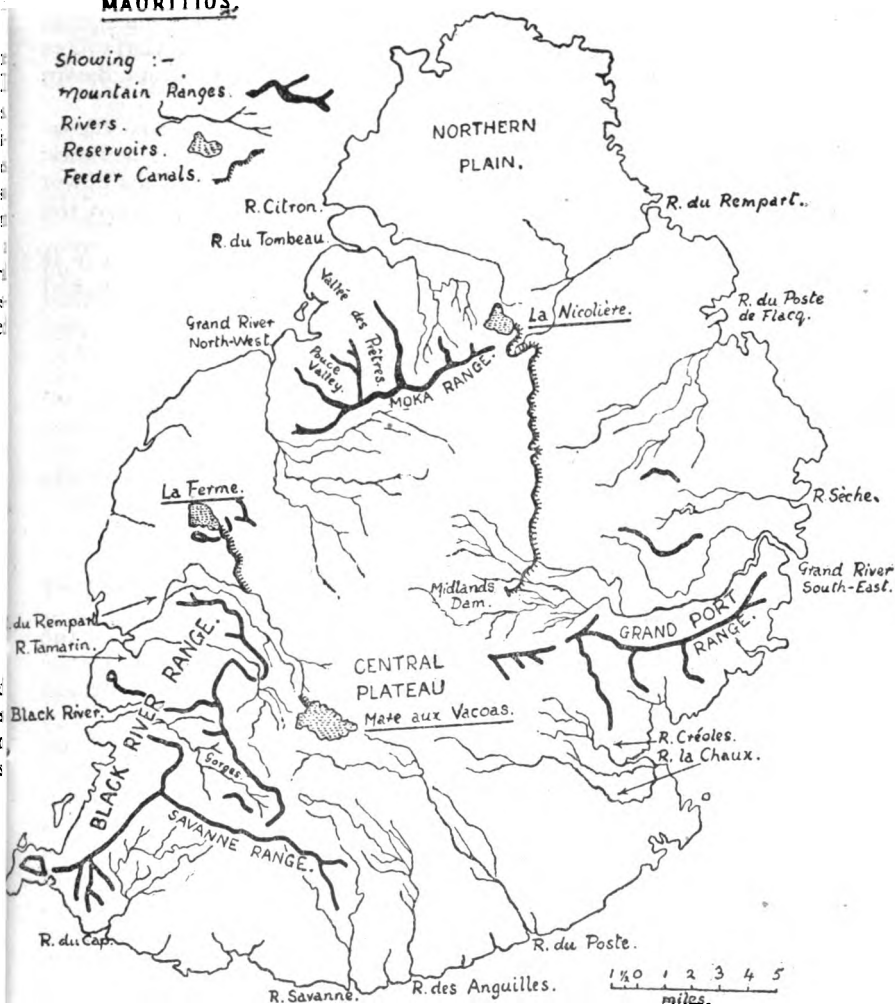
Showing :-

mountain Ranges.

Rivers.

Reservoirs.

Feeder Canals.



plateau. Mare-aux-Vacoas and Mare Longue are mainly for domestic consumption; the former also supplies water for irrigation and hydro-electric purposes. La Ferme and La Nicolière are irrigation reservoirs.

Plaines Wilhems and Port Louis districts have a filtered and chlor-

inated water supply sufficient to meet the needs of the 186,000 inhabitants. The people living in other districts obtain their water from local streams, public fountains or private house supplies. The water is protected from pollution but is not chlorinated or filtered, and improvements in this direction are urgently required. Maintenance of water works was hampered in 1947 by lack of supplies from abroad. An additional water turbine and centrifugal pump were, however, installed at La Marie filter works and improvements were made in the water supply from Bassin Loulou.

1947 was an exceptionally dry year. The level of Mare-aux-Vacoas fell alarmingly, and though no interruption in the supply of domestic water proved necessary, the supply of water to the Tamarin Falls Power Station had first to be reduced and then cut off towards the end of the year.

Good progress was made in the construction of the new reservoir at Mare Longue. Work on this project was started in 1946, and is expected to be completed by 1950.

ELECTRICITY

The inadequacy of the generating resources continued to hold up expansion of this service. The additional plant to extend the hydro-electric generating station's capacity arrived in the Colony towards the end of the year, but its full utilisation will not be possible until the works for increasing the water storage, already in hand, are completed. There should be a gradual improvement in the availability of power from about the middle of 1948, as sections of these works are brought into use. It should be possible to satisfy the whole of the demand for electricity by the second half of 1949.

The year was an exceptionally dry one. The reservoirs feeding the hydro stations were not full at the beginning of the dry season, with the result that the use of electricity had to be restricted during October and November.

The standardisation of voltages and frequencies, leading to the linking up of the Colony's power stations and systems, was completed before the war. All public supply systems are now interconnected by means of transmission lines owned by the Government. Power generation is centralised in the 960-foot head Tamarin Hydro-Electric Station, with the exception of two very small hydro-electric stations at Reduit and Souillac which generate about 8 per cent of the present total demand. Plans for the full development of the favourable Tamarin Hydro station were completed just before the war. These provide for a peak load of 7,500 KW., *i.e.*, about three times the present load, and an output of about 25,000,000 units which is slightly over twice the present output.

With the exception of the sparsely populated southern tip of the Island, and the up-country residential districts of Curepipe, Vacoas and Phœnix, Rose Hill, Beau Bassin, Quatre Bornes and Moka, distribution is in the hands of the Electricity and Telephones Department of the Government.

The unit charge for electricity, both industrial and domestic, is probably as favourable as in any Colony. The rates are practically the same as pre-war. For industrial use where the connected load exceeds 50 horse-power, the all-in unit charge is 4 cents or slightly under two-thirds of a penny. The average all-in domestic charge, where reasonable use is made of domestic appliances, is just under a penny a unit. With the war-time increases in the costs of alternate fuels for domestic purposes, the relative rates for electricity are exceptionally favourable.

TELEPHONES

The Development of the telephone service since it was taken over by the Government in 1938 has been exceptional, notwithstanding war-time difficulties in obtaining supplies. At the time of the transfer there were about 600 subscribers; now there are over 3,000 and a long waiting list. The telephone service, which is now extended throughout the Colony, plays an important part in business and social life. With the exceptional development over the last few years, most of the plant is necessarily modern, consisting so far as the exchanges are concerned of C.B. and automatic equipment. The pre-war rates are still unchanged but increases in material and labour charges have just about absorbed former profits, and increased rates might be necessary in the near future. The present rates are comparable to those charged by the British Post Office before the war.

BROADCASTING

The Mauritius Broadcasting Service, which was inaugurated in 1944 by the Government of Mauritius, was almost completely reorganised during 1947. A new medium-wave transmitter with a rated aerial output of 5 KW. was assembled by the senior technical assistant of the M.B.S. and came on the air on 8th September. Since then it has carried all the M.B.S. programmes, and the transmitters previously in use are now kept as stand-by sets. It is worthy of note that the young technician who assembled the new transmitter had almost completed his task before the blue-prints were received, and that he was self-trained. Two new studios and a control room were constructed by the Public Works Department and were ready in time for the first broadcast by the new transmitter. One of these studios is a concert hall capable of seating up to 75 people, and the other is a small news and talks studio. The control room is linked to both studios by large observation windows and by telephone. Before the installation of these studios the lay-out of the building was quite unsuitable for live broadcasts of a vocal or instrumental nature, but during the last quarter of the year the M.B.S. broadcast an average of 14 live programmes a week and over 150 guest artists gave performances.

The live programmes during this last quarter included 15 song recitals, 4 piano and 2 violin recitals, 6 choir performances and 2 concerts by the Police Band. In addition three public concerts lasting between 1½ and 2½ hours each were given before full houses in the concert studio. Nearly all these live programmes were given free by talented amateurs,

without whose assistance the quality of the M.B.S. programmes would have been much poorer.

Regular weekly programmes were presented this year by members of the Mauritius Garrison ("All Yours" broadcast from March onwards), by members of the public in the series "Mon Programme" and "A Listener takes over", by the Public Relations Officer in a fortnightly series "In Council Today" and, towards the end of the year, by the Education Department which arranged broadcasts for schools. Regular talks were also given on agriculture, health topics, literature and local history, and occasional talks on probation services, dietetics and various scientific topics. In all, 90 talks were given by speakers during 1947, exclusive of the talks given by members of the broadcasting staff.

A number of distinguished visitors came to the microphone this year, among them Mr. A. E. Nichols, headmaster of Hele's School, Exeter, Professor Thornton White, of Capetown University, Mr. Leo Silberman, of Liverpool University, M. Cazenave, a leading member of the French Resistance movement, M. Chaveau, a French economist, Dr. Goulesque, of the Sports Federation of Madagascar, and Mr. F. Boyer de la Giroday, an economist attached to the staff of United Nations.

A group of talented amateurs presented 23 French one-act plays during the year and the Mauritius Dramatic Club gave 2 English one-act plays and an extremely good performance of Shakespeare's "Julius Cæsar" in three episodes. Poetry reading here, as elsewhere, has a limited audience, but nevertheless 6 poetry recitals were broadcast in 1947.

The M.B.S. broadcasts for six hours daily, in three general transmissions and one Indian language transmission. In an average six-day week (excluding Sundays when the number of transmissions is reduced by one) news broadcasts occupy a total of $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours, talks and plays another $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours and musical programmes (live and recorded) 21 hours. There is one daily rebroadcast of B.B.C. news and the rest is made up of French and Hindi translations of world news supplied by Globe Reuter and the London Press Service, and of local news (mostly) from Government sources. The former is monitored on a 24-hour basis by operators working at the broadcasting station, cyclostyled and distributed once daily. Apart from the copies of world news available to the M.B.S., the local press (which now is completely dependent on this source for its external news) receives 7 copies, the armed forces 28 and government departments 49 copies daily. The staff engaged on this work under the supervision of the Manager, M.B.S., consists of 4 monitors and 4 typists.

Recorded music forms the backbone of the M.B.S. transmissions. Its gramophone library in 1947 contained approximately 7,500 commercial recordings and 3,900 B.B.C. Transcription Service recordings, supplied free by the B.B.C. Towards the end of the year some recordings by Radio-diffusion Française were received.

During 1947 an average of six B.B.C. recorded programmes a week was broadcast by the M.B.S., whose use of these interesting and popular recordings was limited for most of the year by lack of slow-speed turntable equipment. This equipment has now been received.

The number of wireless licences in force at 31st December was 3,895, an increase of slightly over 800 during the twelve months. The extension of the listening habit has so far been limited by lack of receiving sets on the market and by the high cost of those available. Plans are afoot to supply a low-priced receiver, and to increase the size of the listening public by (a) the development of community listening in the rural districts and (b) education broadcasts to primary schools.

Listeners receive free each week an advance programme sheet giving details of the M.B.S. general and Hindustani programmes and of selected B.B.C. items for the week under reference. These programmes are printed by the Government Printer and delivered to listeners through the Postmaster-General's Department.

A Broadcasting Advisory Board was created in 1947 to assist the Public Relations Officer in all matters relating to the functioning of the service and to advise him in respect of future developments.

Arrangements were made with the B.B.C. to send two members of the Mauritius Broadcasting Service staff for training courses in studio technique and in engineering, but lack of shipping prevented their departure before the end of the year. The broadcasting staff has so far done good work in a hit-or-miss fashion but it is felt that the time has now come for as many members as possible of the staff to receive a proper professional training such as only the B.B.C. can provide. The help given to this infant organisation by the B.B.C., both in the regular supply of records and in making these training courses available, has been of the utmost value and is very much appreciated.

Chapter II : Communications

SHIPPING

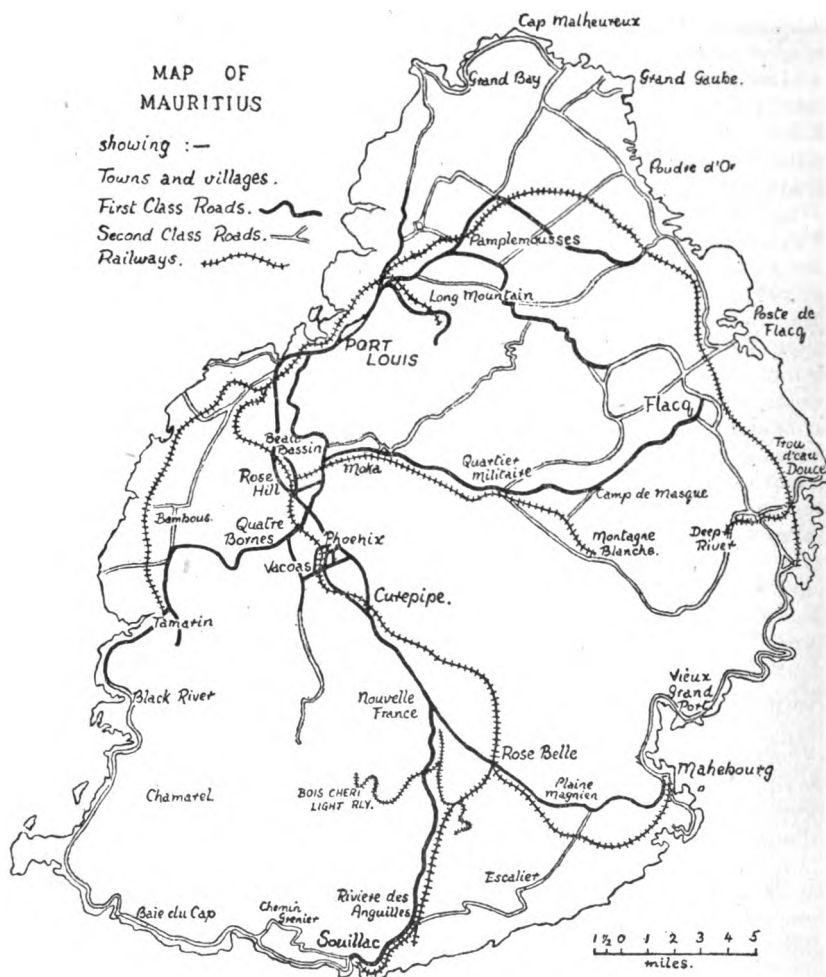
Normal shipping services were not resumed during 1947 either in respect of passenger or of goods traffic. The resumption of the K.P.M. (Royal Dutch Lines) service between the Netherlands East Indies and South Africa via Mauritius, and of the French Messageries Maritimes Service from Marseilles to French East Africa, Madagascar, Réunion and Mauritius, was announced, but neither service kept to a regular schedule during the year. This irregularity in passenger lines, and an even more erratic goods service makes comparison with pre-war years futile and the forecasting of revenue and trade in the near future a matter of some difficulty.

RAILWAYS

The Mauritius Government Railways carried this year the biggest sugar crop ever harvested in the island (*i.e.*, approximately 350,000 tons). The operation was particularly difficult on account of the quicker output of the factories, the lack of storage accommodation in the mills and the condition of the locomotives.

In spite of this record crop the financial position of the Railways re-

mains unsatisfactory due to the fact that since 1942-43 rates have not been increased while the cost of materials and labour have gone up considerably. The price of coal, for instance, increased another Rs. 2.95 per ton during the year, bringing the total cost per ton to Rs. 49.94 as against Rs. 30.00



in 1942-43. The last boiler received cost Rs. 42,895.00 compared with Rs. 16,647.00 in 1931.

It is still almost impossible to obtain the materials required to repair the engines and wagons and this is having an adverse effect on the running of the trains and on the output of the men in the workshops ; the following data will give an indication of the position :

COMMUNICATIONS

75

<i>Item</i>	<i>Annual Pre-War Supply</i> 1934-38	<i>During the War Years</i> 1939-45	<i>During</i> 1947
Boilers . . .	6	1 in 1939	2
Wagon parts :			
Sides . . .	40 sets	Average 3 sets p.a.	Nil
Floors . . .	35 sets	Average 4 sets p.a.	Nil
Ends . . .	35 sets	Average 2 sets p.a.	Nil
Linseed oil . . .	1,970 gallons	Average 1,100 gallons p.a.	500 gallons

ROADS

The Colony possesses roughly 700 miles of roads, including 246 miles of main roads ; 200 miles are tarred and provision has been made under Development and Welfare Estimates for the bitumen treatment of another 200 miles. Supplies of bitumen obtained from abroad enabled normal maintenance of the principal roads to be carried out in 1947.

PASSENGER ROAD TRANSPORT

In 1939, following the passing of the Road Traffic Ordinance, a Board, called the Transport Control Board, was formed. It is composed of the Commissioner of Police, Chairman ; the General Manager of Railways ; the Director of Public Works ; the Deputy Commissioner of Police ; representatives of the Municipality of Port Louis, of the Township Boards of Beau Bassin and Rose Hill, Quatre-Bornes and Curepipe, and also of representatives of as many classes of the population as possible, all appointed by the Governor. Its duties are to grant and transfer licences for the 27 bus routes of the island, prepare tariffs of fares and time-tables for certain routes for public service and goods vehicles ; and provide for bus stands, bus stops and taxi stands as required.

Mauritius is divided into 9 Districts and the following table shows the total of main roads per district and how buses and taxis were distributed in 1947 :

	<i>Main Roads</i> <i>Miles (approx.)</i>	<i>Buses</i>	<i>Taxis</i>
Port Louis . . .	6	105	127
Plaines Wilhems . . .	23		226
Black River . . .	26		3
Savanne . . .	27	28	22
Grand Port . . .	27		31
Flacq . . .	50	27	24
Moka . . .	24		28
Pamplemousses . . .	30	17	24
Riviere du Rempart . . .	33		14
TOTAL . . .	<u>246</u>	<u>177</u>	<u>499</u>

Local bus bodies are built on 26-h.p. or 32-h.p. Bedford, Morris, Austin, Chevrolet and Ford V 8 chassis and are all either single-deck 23- or 27-seaters (including the driver and conductor). The number of buses on the Port Louis-Plaines Wilhems-Black River routes increased from 64 in 1946 to 105 in 1947. Many passengers were consequently lost by the railway service and the congestion on the main Port Louis-Curepipe road greatly increased.

Some taxis ply for hire on stands and others from their garages and can be obtained by telephone in the main towns and villages. There is a tariff for taxi fares, but this does not altogether eliminate the need for bargaining with the driver about the amount demanded.

From the beginning of 1947, new bus and truck chassis and new cars began to arrive in the Colony in ample numbers and the situation which prevailed during the war years was eased to some extent. A certain number of bus chassis, however, are still required, as many of the machines now in service are in very poor condition.

GOODS TRANSPORT BY ROAD

The transport of heavy goods, sugar and fertilisers is compulsorily effected by rail. Lorries are used for the transport of foodstuffs from Port Louis to other towns and villages; of firewood and charcoal from the forests to the towns; of rum and local motor spirit from distilleries to Port Louis and of sugarcanes from the fields to the mills.

There is only one main lorry stand in Port Louis where the majority of the lorries that ply for hire may be found.

POLICE CONTROL

Under the provisions of the Road Traffic Ordinance, 1939, the Police Traffic Branch are responsible for the quarterly examination of all public service and goods vehicles with the object of keeping them in as fit a state as possible for the safety of the public. Motor cycle and foot patrols were active during 1947, in view of the increased road traffic, in encouraging road courtesy, particularly on the congested main roads leading out of Port Louis. The abandonment of the capital as a place of residence by the majority of those who work there, and the establishment of up-country residential areas has had as one result a twice-daily congestion of the main traffic arteries both road and rail.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN USE DURING THE YEARS 1939 TO 1947 INCLUSIVE

Type or Class	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Private cars . . .	1,939	2,031	1,463	1,892	1,561	1,561	1,447	1,553	1,946
Taxi cars . . .	387	338	351	285	281	250	323	493	499
Motor buses . . .	135	137	125	119	114	130	135	145	177
Motor lorries . . .	427	402	420	615	342	443	446	536	611
Motor cycles . . .	219	222	197	233	172	151	163	159	230
Tractors . . .	—	—	—	—	—	6	10	10	30
Government Vehicles	—	—	—	110	125	142	143	129	149
	<u>3,107</u>	<u>3,130</u>	<u>2,556</u>	<u>3,254</u>	<u>2,595</u>	<u>2,683</u>	<u>2,667</u>	<u>3,025</u>	<u>3,642</u>

AIR

In July, 1946, the Government of Mauritius assumed control over the aerodrome at Plaisance and the flying-boat base at Grand Port built during the war and operated by the Royal Naval Air Service. The aerodrome has an all-weather runway 2,000 yards long and 50 yards wide. An air-sea rescue service is maintained and another will start in early 1948 from the Madagascar end of the sea-crossing. Apart from calls by passenger planes visits were made during 1947 by R.A.F. flying boats and land-based planes. An aerial survey of the island was begun in October, but adverse weather prevented its completion, and plans have been made to finish the survey in May, 1948. The Observatory Department became responsible in July for the local meteorological organisation maintained by the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force since 1943. This involves forecasting for aircraft flying in the Mauritius area and the administration of three meteorological observation stations. Two of these are in the minor dependencies of Mauritius, one at Saint Brandon about 250 miles away and the other at Agalega, 600 miles distant from Mauritius.

Douglas D.C.4 planes operated by Air France maintained a weekly service throughout 1947 and carried a total of 2,319 passengers in addition to mail and heavy freight. A second link was forged at the end of the year when a new service was started in December by Skyways Ltd. between Mauritius and Nairobi, and thence by B.O.A.C. to the United Kingdom. Postal communications with the outside world have been immensely speeded up by these air services, which have rapidly become popular as a means of passenger transport both for short holiday trips to the neighbouring island of Réunion and for rapid travel to France and Great Britain. A passenger leaving Plaisance on Sunday morning can now reach London by the early afternoon of Tuesday. The cost of a single trip to the U.K. is Rs. 2,500 (roughly £187 10s.).

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

In implementation of the development scheme for the postal service, postal agencies were opened in 1947 at the outlying villages of Triolet, Plaine des Papayes, Piton, Lalmatie, Le Caverne, Plaine Magnien and Surinam. In addition two agencies, one at Sebastopol and the other at Olivia, which had been closed down about twenty years ago, were reopened. House-to-house delivery was extended to Goodlands, Cap Malheureux, Grand River South East, Grand Sable and Mare d'Alberty. Before long a network of postal facilities will cover the whole island.

At the close of the year the number of postal agencies in the charge of school teachers, dressers and Civil Status Officers stood at 33. Though most of these agencies do not pay their way they serve a useful social purpose.

The use of bicycles for speeding up the delivery of mails has been extended to certain suburban areas; this was rendered necessary by the great number of air-mail letters received weekly.

In June revised rates of postage on air-mail letters were put into force.

The new charges represent a reduction of about 10 per cent on the former rates for the United Kingdom. The air letter service has been extended to all Empire countries, the United States and China.

As a concession, with effect from 28th November, postage rates on air letters addressed to His Majesty's Forces abroad were reduced from 35 cents to 20 cents a letter.

Remittances are made by both postal orders and money orders. In spite of the division of the Indian Empire into two separate states money order transactions with Pakistan continue to be carried out through India pending the conclusion of an appropriate agreement between Pakistan and Mauritius.

The expansion of the activities of the various branches of the postal service is reflected by increases in the volume of air mail dealt with, in the money order and postal order business transacted and in the number of parcels handled. It is worthy of note that remittances by the Mauritius Pioneer Corps serving in the Middle East account for nearly three-fourths of the Rs. 246,000 paid in respect of postal orders. There has been a slight decrease in telecommunication traffic. Sales of stamps, which reached in 1946 a total of Rs. 584,786, showed a further increase of Rs. 127,736 in 1947.

Through unavoidable circumstances the commemorative "Post Office" postage stamps were not available for sale on 21st September, 1947, the centenary date of the issue of the much-prized and world-renowned "Post Office". There is no doubt that there would have been far greater demand for these commemorative stamps had they been ready for sale on 21st September.

It is of some interest to record that the volume of mails from the United States, which before the war was not more than 15 bags per month, has reached 100 bags on an average.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Overseas telecommunications are maintained by Cable and Wireless Limited, whose local station is in Port Louis. Cablegrams to and from central telegraph offices are transmitted on the Government telegraph lines. Rodrigues is connected with Mauritius by that Company's cable system.

Communication with the outside world is also provided by a Wireless Coast Station. The Station can transmit within a limited range to ships equipped with wireless. Radiotelegrams can be handed in at any telegraph office for transmission.

Chapter 12 : Cultural Organisations

THE MAURITIUS INSTITUTE

The project for the foundation of an Institute in Mauritius first took shape in 1880 when an ordinance was passed with the active support of the Governor, Sir George Bowen, "to establish and incorporate a Public

Institute ; a Public Museum and a Public Library, for the purpose of promoting the general study and cultivation of the various branches and departments of Art, Science, Literature and Philosophy, and for the instruction and recreation of the people ”.

The first stone of the present building was laid by Sir George Bowen on 23rd November, 1880, and the natural history collections bequeathed to the Colony by Julien Desjardins were transferred to the new building from the old Royal College in 1885. The Public Library was opened in 1903, following the munificent bequest of the Sir Virgile Naz library which forms the nucleus of the present collections.

To-day, the Institute comprises a Public Library, a Natural History Museum and an Art Gallery ; in addition the following scientific societies are incorporated with the Institute : The Royal Society of Art and Sciences, the Société des Chimistes et des Techniciens des Industries Agricoles and the Société Medicale.

The administration of the Institute is assisted by a Board of Directors appointed annually by the Governor, including three members appointed on the recommendation of the incorporated Societies. A Library Committee and a Museum Committee are set up each year to manage the affairs of the Library and Museum respectively.

In March, 1947, the newly-appointed Director of the Mauritius Institute, who had been Chief Censor and Information Officer during the war years, assumed duty. In July the post of Librarian-Curator was abolished and a full-time Librarian was appointed as well as a full-time Curator holding the diploma of the Museums' Association of London. Plans for erecting a new building or enlarging the existing one are under consideration.

The Museum is open daily to the public except on Sundays and public holidays, admission free from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and was visited during the course of the year by over 60,000 people.

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The stock comprises more than 32,000 volumes about equally divided between French and English. The Library has a large and valuable collection of Mauritiana and a reference section on the natural history of the Mascarene Islands and neighbouring regions. More than seventy-five periodicals are received annually. The Library is free to readers, but a deposit of Rs. 10 and an annual subscription of Rs. 7.50 is required from borrowers. The valuable support of the British Council has resulted in important accessions to the Library from time to time and it is owing to the Council's generosity that it has been possible to make much-needed additions to the periodicals both of technical and general interest.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

This museum is local in character and every effort is being made to assemble as complete a collection as possible of the fauna and flora of the Mascarene Islands and of the surrounding ocean. A reserve collection

is being gradually built up for research workers and their educational and ecological aspects are being considered in arranging the exhibits.

In the avian section there are two skeletons of the Dodo, one of the Solitaire, from Rodrigues, and one of the flightless Red Hen (*Aphanapteryx*), as well as a complete collection of the endemic birds of Mauritius, including the extinct Dutch Pigeon (*Alectroenas nitidissima*).

A special case is devoted to the fauna of Round Island, a small islet 12 miles north of Mauritius.

There are now on view advanced collections of crustacea, echinodermata and mollusca, both land and marine. A collection of tropical fish, many painted in their natural colours, is also of interest.

The botanical section includes a herbarium of over 4,000 sheets of specimens from Mauritius, Rodrigues and some of the smaller Indian Ocean islands. Native and exotic timber specimens are displayed and a special section is devoted to diseases and pests of economic plants.

RESEARCH

The richness and variety of marine life in the surrounding seas together with the very interesting remnants of the indigenous land fauna and flora present excellent opportunities for research in pure, economic and marine biology, and the collections of the museum form a valuable basis for investigation in these fields.

In recent years research work in conjunction with institutions overseas has continued to develop, mainly on marine and land mollusca, crustaceans, insects and reptiles; investigations on the systematics and ecology of the vegetation of Mauritius are in progress.

PUBLICATIONS

The Mauritius Institute publishes an Annual Report (suspended during the later war years) and a Bulletin devoted to original papers on the fauna and flora of the Mascarene region to which many experts working in institutions overseas have contributed. The first part was published in 1936 and part 5 of the second volume is in preparation. Copies of the parts still in print may be obtained on application to the Director, Mauritius Institute, Port Louis.

SOCIETIES INCORPORATED WITH THE MAURITIUS INSTITUTE

(1) *The Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of Mauritius*. This Society, which was founded in 1829 under the title of "Société d'Histoire Naturelle", was honoured with a Royal Charter in 1846. Its activities extend to most branches of natural history; science and art lectures are delivered by its members and also by visitors of mark under its auspices. A catalogue of the library which contains many rare and valuable books on natural history was published in 1945. Annual Transactions are published containing the proceedings and papers read before the Society.

(2) *Société Médicale de l'Ile Maurice*. The Society was founded in 1880 and includes among its members most of the medical practitioners of the Colony.

(3) *Société des Chimistes et des Techniciens des Industries Agricoles*. Formerly known as the *Société des Chimistes*, the Society has been recently re-organised and broadened by the inclusion of all engineers and technicians engaged in the sugar industry.

The Society is a technical body studying all questions relating to the growth of sugarcane and the manufacture of canesugar. The papers and proceedings of the Society are published in the bi-monthly "*Revue Agricole*".

OTHER HISTORICAL, LITERARY AND CULTURAL SOCIETIES

Société de l'Histoire de l'Île Maurice. This Society was founded in 1938 to foster and encourage the study of the Colony's history by collecting documents on local history, publishing historical works, and organising historical exhibitions and lectures.

One of the principal activities of the Society has been the production of the *Dictionary of Mauritian Biography*, twenty-one parts of which have already appeared containing eight hundred and sixty-one biographies of persons connected with Mauritius by birth or residence.

The Society awards prizes in the schools to encourage the study of Mauritius history. It corresponds and exchanges publications with similar institutions overseas and collects material from the Archives at the Cape, The Hague, Batavia, Paris, London and Lisbon.

In 1939 the Society took part in the Adrien d'Epinay Centenary Celebrations; in 1942 a monument was erected by it to commemorate the explorer Matthew Flinders who had been a prisoner for seven years in Mauritius. In 1944 it organised a Paul and Virginia bi-centenary exhibition in the Mauritius Institute.

La Société des Ecrivains Mauriciens. The Society was founded in 1938 with the objects of encouraging the publication of literary works, establishing contact with similar institutions overseas, and maintaining unity among Mauritian writers.

The Society has participated in several conferences both in Mauritius and overseas.

Encouragement is given to young authors by the award of prizes and by assisting the publication of their works.

Le Cercle Littéraire de Port Louis. Le Cercle Littéraire originated as an association called *Hidoceana Verdatolo*, the object of which was to promote the study of Esperanto in Mauritius. Later it became a literary society and in July, 1917, assumed the title by which it is known to-day.

The principal object of the Society is to unite all those interested in French culture and ideals. Its principal aim is to encourage among the Mauritian people the study and diffusion of the French language and literature, by means of annual competitions and public lectures.

A review, *L'Essor*, is published by this Society.

Alliance Française. The local branch of the Alliance Française in Port Louis, Mauritius, was founded in 1884 with the object of fostering French culture by the introduction of French courses in schools, conduct-

ing annual examinations and organising meetings and conferences on French literature and art.

The Port Louis branch now has 240 members. Since relations have been resumed with France the activities of the branch have been revived and the valuable services of French lecturers have been obtained. Towards the end of the year it was learned with pleasure that the President-General of the Alliance Française, M. Georges Duhamel, would visit Mauritius in the early days of 1948.

The Mauritius Muslim Youth Brigade. Founded in 1939 under the patronage of His Eminence Maulana Abdul Aleem Siddiqui, the Mauritius Muslim Youth Brigade is one of the most active youth organisations in the Colony and young Muslims of all classes are encouraged to join the movement.

The Brigade organises lectures, debates and sports, and an annual bulletin is published. In 1946 the Brigade was visited by a representative of the Muslim Youth Majlis of India to which it is affiliated.

The Vacoas House of Debaters. This Association is a literary society which takes special interest in youth education and has started a scholarship fund, authorised by Government, to assist pupils of the Royal College and Royal College School.

Fortnightly meetings are held for lectures, debates and plays, and occasional radio programmes are presented on the Mauritius Broadcasting Service.

The Indian League of Mauritius. The Indian League of Mauritius was founded under the name of the Indian Students Association.

The principal objects of the League are to foster friendship and brotherhood among its members and to work for the social betterment of the Indian community.

The League organises debates, lectures and sports, publishes a quarterly magazine, and gives plays in English, French and Hindustani. It took part in the Indian Independence Day celebrations on 15th August and in the public tributes paid to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi after his assassination.

The Mental and Physical Culture Association. The principal aims of this Association are to encourage the study of English language and literature and to assist its members in obtaining facilities for enjoying sports such as tennis and football.

In 1947 the outstanding event was the celebration of the Indian Independence Day ceremony in connection with which the Association gave a banquet attended by the Officer Administering the Government and leading representatives of all sections of the community.

The Hindi Pracharini Sadha and the Mauritius Hindi Parishad. These societies were established with the principal object of promoting and encouraging the study of Hindi in schools. Efforts are being made by the managing committees to produce a uniform curriculum and to improve the standard of teaching. Collaboration with the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan of Allahabad is maintained for conducting external examinations in Higher Hindi in Mauritius.

British Medical Association, Mauritius Branch. A branch of the British Medical Association was founded in 1939. Of the 75 registered practitioners in the Colony, 42 are now members of the local branch. Membership is granted to all medical practitioners who have qualified for registration in Mauritius, including those with French qualifications; the Branch is thus representative of the medical profession in the island. Close collaboration is maintained between Government and the profession, and the advice of the Branch has been frequently sought by Government in connection with Development and Welfare and other needs of the community.

PART III

Chapter I : Geography and Climate

GEOGRAPHY

MAURITIUS is a small island of about 720 square miles situated in the Indian Ocean, between $19^{\circ} 58'$ and $20^{\circ} 32'$ South Latitude, and the meridians of $57^{\circ} 17'$ and $57^{\circ} 46'$ East Longitude. It is almost surrounded by fringing reef. The northern part of the island is a fairly flat plain which rises gently towards the Central Plateau. Elsewhere the coastal plain is narrow, and the ascent to the Central Plateau abrupt. Bordering the central plateau there are three main mountain ranges with rocky peaks rising to a height of 2,711 feet. Apart from these ranges, there are many other isolated hills and peaks. There are numerous small rivers throughout the island, the longest being about 25 miles. Most of the rivers are short and fast-flowing owing to the steepness of the slope from the Central Plateau to the sea. Waterfalls are not uncommon in Mauritius, and some of the larger have been harnessed to supply hydro-electric power. There are only two natural lakes in Mauritius, Grand Bassin and Bassin Blanc. Three reservoirs supply water for drinking purposes and irrigation, and a fourth is now under construction. The only ports capable of taking ocean-going ships are at Port Louis, in the north-west, the capital and business centre, and at Mahebourg, the old capital, in the south-east.

Mauritius is one of the most thickly populated places in the world. Its 720 square miles carries a population exceeding 425,000, *i.e.*, about 600 inhabitants per square mile; but the district of Plaines Wilhems, in the Central Plateau, has a population density of 1,500 to the square mile.

The chief industry of the island is sugar production. Sugarcane-fields may be seen all over the island. From the hill tops the ground looks like an immense green lawn regularly intersected by silver-grey ribbons of roads. There are small areas of indigenous forests but large plantations of pine are made by the Forest Department to supply wood to factories and to provide timber for building purposes. All round the coast there is a fringe of either casuarina "filaos" or coconut trees.

Mauritius is well supplied with road communications. Travelling even to the remotest part of the island is comparatively easy. There is a railway service operating 164 miles of main and secondary lines and numerous bus services.

The Colony, being almost in the centre of the Indian Ocean, is a comparatively isolated place. Strategically, it is, however, situated almost at the crossing of the sea routes linking Australia, India and the East Indies with South Africa. Before the war, steamers *en route* from the Far East to South Africa called regularly at Mauritius and the French

MAP OF MAURITIUS

Serpent Is.

Flat Is.

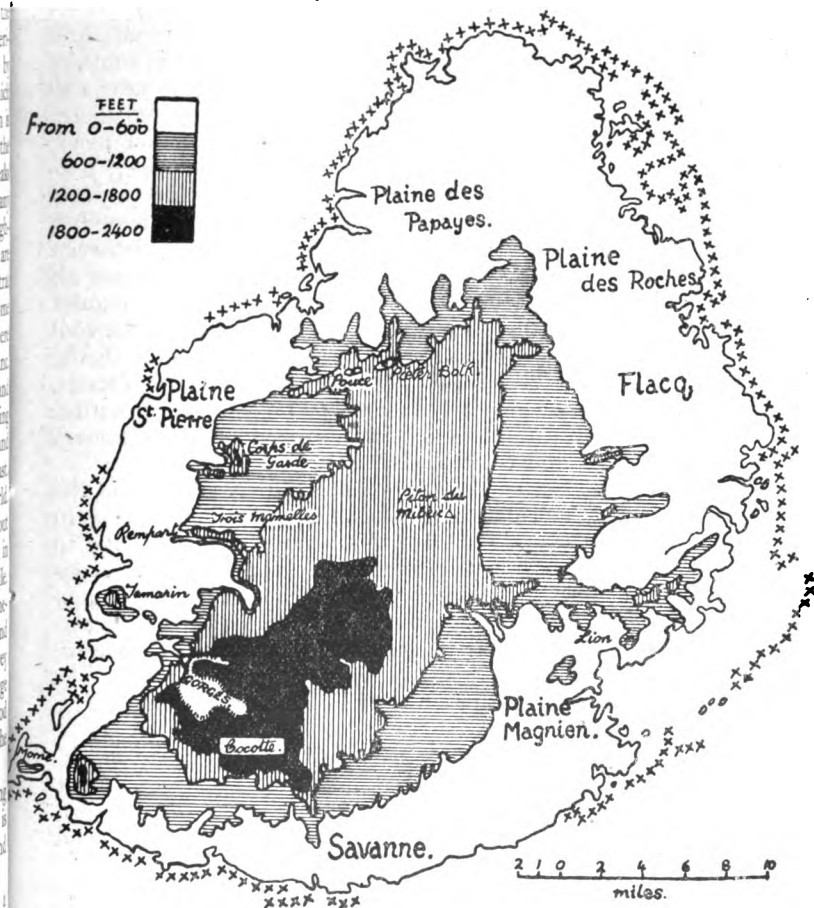
Round Is.

Gabriel Is.

showing plains, plateaux and mountains.

Gunner's Quoin.

Line of reefs



ships bound for the neighbouring French colony of Réunion also called at Port Louis so that there was also a regular service with East African ports. During the war a modern air port was built at Plaisance in the southern part of the island. There is at present (1947) one regular weekly air service and others are projected. Communications with Europe have consequently much improved.

CLIMATE

Mauritius lies just within the tropics, but it is a small land mass without any large land area in its vicinity. It has therefore a maritime climate, tropical-maritime during summer and sub-tropical in winter. This differs appreciably from the climate of a place on the same latitude in a large continent. Very high temperatures are not experienced in summer nor particularly low ones in winter and, except in localities at or near sea-level and during occasional dry spells, rainfall is sufficient to maintain a green cover of vegetation throughout the year. On the other hand, owing to the high relative humidity, there are periods in summer, particularly when there is little or no wind, when considerable physical discomfort is felt, especially at or near sea-level, even though the temperatures are not extremely high. On the Central Plateau, which is between 1,000 and 2,000 feet above sea-level, it is comparatively cool almost all the year round. Heavy rains fall in summer, though there is no regular rainy season. In winter, it is cold and wet in the higher parts but cool round the coast. During this period there is a general exodus to the seaside. The bathing beaches with their white coral sand and calm, safe lagoons for bathing, fishing, swimming and boating are really beautiful and have been favourably compared by travellers with the well-known tourist resorts of Hawaii and other Pacific Islands.

The island is in the cyclonic region of the Indian Ocean, and the cyclone season, which coincides with the summer season, begins in November and ends in May. These cyclones often cause damage to plantations and buildings, but equally often are beneficial to the cane-fields because of the rain they bring. Cyclones are occasionally very severe, causing widespread destruction to crops, trees and buildings, and sometimes loss of life. Fortunately visitations of this catastrophic nature are relatively infrequent.

The following is a summary of the main climatological features.

SEASONS

The year can be divided approximately into two seasons; summer from November to April and winter from May to October, though April to June and September to November can be looked upon as transitional periods, during which, incidentally, the weather is wellnigh perfect.

RAINFALL

The average annual rainfall at or near sea-level is 50 inches or less, the minimum being about 30 inches in the western and north-western coastal areas. The amount increases steadily with altitude and reaches

nearly 200 inches on the highest part of the Central Plateau at about 2,000 feet above sea-level.

Summer rainfall produces by far the larger proportion of the total for the year. The main source of the rain is tropical cyclones. When the centre of one passes over or close to the island the rainfall is very heavy, particularly in the case of a slowly moving cyclone. For example, in the cyclone of March, 1931, one locality recorded over 36 inches in 24 hours and 130 inches for the month.

The other important source of summer rainfall is instability showers ("convictional" rain) falling during the early afternoon in calm, or nearly calm weather. These showers are of fairly short duration but are frequently extremely heavy.

Winter rainfall is mostly of an orographic nature produced by the lifting and cooling of the trade wind stream as it passes over the Island. It is in the form of light rain or drizzle, most of which falls over the central high-ground area.

True droughts are rare except near sea-level, but very large deficiencies occur from time to time, particularly in summer months whenever there is little or no cyclone activity in this part of the South Indian Ocean. A dry spell of this nature has been experienced during 1947.

TEMPERATURE

The mean temperature varies from 74° F. at sea-level to 67° F. at 2,000 feet, and the mean annual range is 11° F. The highest and lowest values recorded at the Observatory, at an altitude of 180 feet, are 94·8° F. and 49·9° F. respectively, and the minimum at 1,850 feet is 44·9° F. The mean daily range is 13·5° F.

HUMIDITY

The mean relative humidity increases from 70 per cent at sea-level to nearly 90 per cent at 1,850 feet. The lowest value recorded at the Observatory is 33 per cent. The mean daily range varies from 19 per cent in April to 31 per cent in November at 180 feet.

SUNSHINE

The average number of hours per day of bright sunshine is 7·8 at 180 feet and 7·0 at 1,400 feet.

WINDS

During the winter months, with only brief occasional interruptions due to distant extra tropical depressions, the island experiences steady south-east to east-south-east trade winds of moderate strength. From time to time they become fairly strong for a day or two but never reach gale force.

In summer the average direction of the trades becomes easterly and of light to moderate force, and interruptions are much more frequent. When they are due to depressions to the south the winds become very

light, mainly north-west to north. When due to tropical cyclones gales from any direction may be experienced.

TROPICAL CYCLONES

Cyclones occur during the summer season, usually between November and May, with the greatest frequency of occurrence in January and February. They have been known to affect Mauritius slightly on rare occasions in September and October.

Over the period for which data are available, nearly 100 years, very severe cyclones have been rare, but, as in 1945, it is possible for the island to be struck by two destructive cyclones in a matter of weeks.

The highest average wind velocity so far recorded has been about 90 miles per hour, with peak velocities of 130 miles per hour. The winds near the centre are, however, extremely gusty and this, as well as the torrential rain that occurs, adds considerably to the destruction caused.

Chapter 2 : History

The island of Mauritius was probably visited both by Arab sailors and by Malays during the Middle Ages; and on maps of about 1500 it is shown with an Arabic name. During the early sixteenth century Portuguese sailors are presumed to have visited it several times, though no record of any actual Portuguese visit has yet been published. The island appears on many sixteenth-century maps with the Portuguese name of Cerne or Cirne.

Dutch sailors visited it first in 1598 and renamed it Mauritius, after their ruler Prince Maurice of Nassau; later they made frequent calls on their trading expeditions to the East Indies. First-hand accounts of these visits exist, and of visits by English, French and Danish ships, which called at Mauritius for water, food, and cargoes of ebony wood. An English trading company planned to occupy the island, but was forestalled in 1638 by a Dutch company, whose settlement lasted (with a gap from 1658 to 1664) until 1710. It was from Mauritius in 1642 that Tasman set out on his most important voyage of Australasian discovery.

The Dutch settlers never numbered much over three hundred (adults, children and slaves all counted) and the most useful element was a group of twenty or thirty farmers, rearing cattle, hunting, fishing, growing food crops and some tobacco. But the settlement never developed enough to produce dividends and the Dutch company finally abandoned it in 1710. The most noteworthy results of this Dutch occupation were the exploitation of the island's great ebony forests and the extinction of the Dodo, a bird peculiar to Mauritius and often mentioned by early seventeenth-century travellers.

The French in 1715 claimed the island and called it "Ile de France", but seem not to have settled any of their surplus Bourbon colonists there until 1722. In the interval, European pirates from Madagascar and ships

of the British navy searching for the pirates were almost the only visitors to the deserted island.

From 1722 till about 1767 Mauritius was governed by the French East India Company and from 1767 to 1810 by officials appointed by the French Government. The population had grown to almost one thousand (two hundred of them Europeans) in 1735, and from the governorship of the great Mahé de Labourdonnais onwards it increased rapidly, reaching nearly twenty thousand in 1767 (fifteen thousand of them slaves). Much of the land was divided into concessions of a quarter mile by a mile approximately, and most of these were farmed: coffee, manioc, maize, vegetables, fruit, indigo, cloves and sugar were among the crops grown. There was some rearing of poultry, goats and cattle. Port Louis, the capital, was a lair of speculators and adventurers, desirous of returning to Europe as soon as possible. During the wars of the eighteenth-century (Austrian Succession War, Seven Years War, War of American Independence), the island became a naval depot, supplying French fleets fighting the British in the Indian Ocean and was the pivot of ambitious French schemes to drive the British out of their Indian trading settlements. It was also a port of call for several expeditions (notably that of Bougainville), and was described by many French travellers (of which the best known is Bernadin de Saint Pierre, author of *Paul et Virginie*).

From 1767, under royal government, the population continued to increase, reaching thirty thousand in 1777, forty thousand in 1787, and nearly sixty thousand in 1797 (including fifty thousand slaves, from Madagascar and Africa). During the French Revolution the inhabitants of Mauritius set up a government virtually independent of France, and organised very successful and damaging raids on English commerce whenever England and France were at war. These raids continued while Decaen (one of Napoleon's generals) was governor, until in 1810 a strong British expedition, long planned and more than once postponed, was sent to capture the island. Bourbon and Rodrigues were also occupied by the British in 1810, but by the Treaty of Paris in 1814 Bourbon was given back to France. Mauritius and its dependencies, including Rodrigues and Seychelles, were then ceded definitely to Great Britain.

Many English officials were brought in together with a large garrison of several regiments. The garrison was gradually reduced by 1870 to half a battalion; and after 1914 still further. During the recent war the garrison was greatly augmented by troops of the King's African Rifles and detachments of British gunners and engineers of the Royal Navy and Air Force. Few English merchants and private persons have settled in Mauritius, whose European population has remained mainly French in language and sentiment. After 1825 the island flourished, especially through sugar exported to England, the crop increasing from 14,000 tons to 34,000 tons in the decade 1823-33. During these early years the English Government's suppression of the slave trade and then its plans to free the slaves were fiercely opposed in Mauritius. Two million pounds sterling were paid to slave owners in compensation for the loss of their slaves, and new labourers were brought in from India instead to work in the fields.

The population, which in 1833 had reached a hundred thousand (three-quarters of them slaves), had by 1861 risen to three hundred thousand, nearly two hundred thousand of them being immigrants from India, most of whom remained to settle in Mauritius. After 1880 far fewer immigrant labourers were brought in, and the census of 1944 showed that the population had in the last eighty years increased but not greatly altered racially: 265,000 Indians out of a total of 419,000.

Immigrant labourers, imported fertilisers, improved methods of agriculture and richer cane varieties all aiding, the sugar crop rose to 70,000 tons in 1853, 150,000 tons by 1900, and this year reached the record figure of 350,000 tons. For the sake of sugar forests were cut down, Indians brought in, reservoirs and irrigation schemes carried out, new government departments set up and technicians trained. As Joseph Conrad wrote: "First-rate sugar cane is grown there. All the population lives for it and by it. Sugar is their daily bread."

Other industries were sporadically encouraged and normally neglected. After the slaves had been freed, much less food was grown locally, and more was imported, especially rice from India. This became the staple food of the population and so remained, except when in the 1939-45 war rice supplies from Burma and India were cut off and imported flour and local crops had to be used as substitutes. When boom prices were being paid for sugar after the 1914-18 war, various minor industries, including tea, brick and tile manufacture, tobacco, aloe-fibre bags and a government dairy were developed.

One side of Mauritian history concerns the cyclones, epidemics and crop pests which from time to time have upset its economy. In the eighteen-fifties there were epidemics of cholera and in the eighteen-sixties five years of epidemic malaria, which caused the death of 20,000 people in Port Louis alone in 1867 and the mass-migration of thousands, including almost all the fairly well-to-do, from Port Louis and the coastal districts to the higher, healthier parts of Plaines Wilhems. Curepipe, a scattered village in 1865, was by 1895 large enough to have a town board nominated annually by the Governor, and by 1945 was a town of over 20,000 people. The district of Plaines Wilhems, which in 1851 had 14,000 inhabitants, grew to 75,000 in 1921 and 120,000 in 1944. The cyclone of 1892, in which 1,200 persons were killed; the epidemic of surra in 1902, which killed off all the draught oxen and caused sugar estates hurriedly to import light railways; bubonic plague, from 1899; the "Phytalus Smithi" beetle which was in 1911 found to be attacking the sugarcane; the 1919 epidemic of influenza; the spread of malaria during the nineteen-thirties into the hills and higher districts; finally, three cyclones and a serious outbreak of infantile paralysis in 1945; these misfortunes are woven into the pattern of the island's history.

When sugar prices were high and the island was prosperous, living conditions were improved in various ways. The sanitation of Port Louis was after long discussion improved in the eighteen-nineties. Sir Ronald Ross's visit in 1908 led to useful anti-malarial works during the next twenty years. Reservoirs at Mare-aux-Vacoas (1893-95), La Ferme (1918),

and La Nicolière (1924) brought irrigation and domestic water to private houses and to sugar estates in several districts. Child welfare and similar activities developed in the war years. After expert inquiries in 1921, the water supply of Port Louis was greatly improved, and the port itself was somewhat modernised. Under the stimulus of the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts more money was spent on education in the nineteen-forties. Prior to 1937, government revenue had come mainly from taxes on goods entering or leaving the island, and on various local products. A graduated poll tax on incomes was introduced and within ten years had almost doubled government revenue.

When sugar prices were low or climatic difficulties discouraging, the island had at intervals to raise loans or obtain grants from London. This happened in 1892 and again in 1908, when there was a Royal Commission of Inquiry under Sir Frank Swettenham sent out from England; again in 1930, when government expenditure on public works and on salaries was cut down, and in 1945, in consequence of the disastrous cyclones of that year.

During the wars of 1914-18 and 1939-45, many Mauritians went overseas to serve in the armed forces. During the first war Mauritius suffered very little, goods not becoming scarce for some years; but in the second war food ran very short and at one time, in 1942, a Japanese attack, as a sideshow to an occupation of Madagascar, was regarded as inevitable. Later in the war the garrison was reinforced with African troops; the harbour of Grand Port after years of oblivion was used as an auxiliary naval base and a permanent aerodrome was built near Mahebourg. The civil service, always numerous in Mauritius, expanded still further during the war years to meet the need to control an increasingly large sphere of human activities: permits for exports and imports, requisitioning of houses and other property, conscription for military service, rationing of various foods and commodities, fixing of retail prices, and so on.

The introduction into Mauritius of various modern inventions was gradual and rather belated. Electric light was used in Port Louis Hospital in 1885; as street lighting in Curepipe in 1893, but not in Port Louis till 1909. The island was joined by cable to Seychelles in 1893, to Australia, Natal and Rodriguez in 1901, and to Bourbon in 1906. The railways date from 1860, but the telephone system only from about 1912. Domestic sanitation is equally recent, and remains primitive in most homes. Before 1914 motor-cars were rare; but by 1939 they numbered over three thousand (one thousand of these being lorries, taxis or buses). During the war, when petrol became scarce, a new local industry developed, the manufacture of power alcohol from sugarcane molasses for motor-cars. For some years prior to 1939 a small independent broadcasting company operated a service in Mauritius. This was first controlled by Government at the outbreak of war and later, in 1944, closed down and replaced by the government-operated Mauritius Broadcasting Service.

Chapter 3 : Administration

The Government of Mauritius is vested in a Governor with an Executive Council and a Council of Government. The Council of Government was first established in 1825. It consisted of the Governor and four officials. In the following year the Constitution was amended and a Council including unofficial members was introduced. This Constitution provided for a Council of Government composed of certain officers of the Crown and of an equal number of other persons to be taken from the chief landowners and principal merchants of the Colony; seven officials and seven unofficials were accordingly appointed.

The Constitution was again amended in October, 1885. The Council of Government, under the revised Constitution, was composed of the Governor, eight *ex-officio* members, nine members nominated by the Governor and ten members elected by the people: of the latter, two represented the town of Port Louis, the capital of the island, and the remaining eight represented the rural districts. At least one-third of the nominated members were to be persons not holding any public office.

The Constitution was further amended in July, 1933, by fixing at two-thirds the proportion of the nominated members of the Council who are to be unofficials and, although no provision to that effect was made in the Letters Patent, the nominated unofficial members have been allowed a free vote on all occasions. Debates in the Council of Government may be either in English or French.

The constitution of the Executive Council which was hitherto composed of the Governor and four *ex-officio* members was amended at the same time, and the former practice of appointing unofficial members to the Council was revived. Four official and three unofficial members now serve on Executive Council.

The number of registered electors on 31st December, 1947, was 11,799. Every male person holding the following qualifications was entitled to be registered as a voter:

- (1) attained the age of 21 years;
- (2) under no legal incapacity, and in possession of his civil rights;
- (3) a British subject by birth or naturalisation;
- (4) residence in the Colony for three years at least previous to the date of registration, and possessing one of the following qualifications:
 - (a) the owner of an immoveable property of the annual value of Rs. 300;
 - (b) paying rent at the rate of at least Rs. 25 a month;
 - (c) the owner of moveable property within the colony of the value of at least Rs. 3,000;
 - (d) the husband of a wife, or the eldest son of a widow, possessing any one of the above qualifications;

- (e) in receipt of a yearly salary of at least Rs. 600 or of a monthly salary of at least Rs. 50, or
- (f) paying licence duty to the amount of at least Rs. 200 a year.

The life of a Council is five years, but that of the present one which dates back to 1936 has been extended four times, at first owing to the war and recently in view of the impending change in the Constitution. The last extension was for a further period of six months up to June, 1948.

The eagerly awaited new Constitution has now been issued under Letters Patent dated 19th December, 1947, and elections will be held as soon as possible in 1948 on the basis of the revised Constitution.

According to its terms, British subjects, male and female, of 21 years of age or upwards who have been ordinarily and bona-fide resident in the Colony for a period of 2 years preceding an election, and

- (a) being ordinarily resident in some electoral district, are able to read and write simple sentences and sign their names in one of certain specified languages to the satisfaction of the Registering Officer; or
- (b) being ordinarily resident in some electoral district, are qualified as serving in the Forces, or as ex-servicemen discharged with certificate of satisfactory service; or
- (c) have been for 6 months previous to the date of registration owners or occupiers of business premises in an electoral district;

shall, unless debarred under the specific disqualifications listed in Section 17 of the Mauritius (Legislative Council) Order in Council, 1947, be entitled to vote.

As a transitional measure the Legislature will elect 4 unofficial members to the Executive Council, although the Royal Instructions leave the door open for the appointment of other members. The normal tenure of office of an appointed member is to be three years.

The new Legislature is to be composed as follows:

Governor as President;

3 *ex-officio* Members (the Colonial Secretary, the Procureur and Advocate General, and the Financial Secretary);

12 Nominated Unofficial Members; and

19 Elected Members.

There has been a regrouping of electoral districts under the new Order in Council. Plaines Wilhems and Black River are joined together to form one electoral district returning six members. The electoral districts of Moka and Flacq, Grand Port and Savanne, Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart will each be represented by three elected members, and the electoral district of Port Louis by reason of its population and commercial importance is to have four elected members.

The head of the Civil Service is the Colonial Secretary who is also the Governor's chief adviser on administrative and political matters, while the Financial Secretary advises on financial policy.

The capital, Port Louis, is administered by a Municipality constituted

under Ordinance 16 of 1849. The first annual elections were held in 1850 when eighteen Councillors were returned for the town as a whole. Minor changes in the constitution of the municipality were effected in 1851 and 1888.

In 1903 the town was divided into four wards, three Councillors being returned for each ward. Salary earners were excluded from the right to vote but this right was restored to them in 1923 when the ward system was abolished and twelve Councillors were elected for the town as a whole. The number of registered electors on the 31st December, 1947, was 3,571.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected by the Council subject to confirmation by the Governor.

Four towns of Plaines Wilhems District are administered by Boards of Commissioners established and constituted as follows:

Curepipe.	Ordinance No. 12 of 1889	Chairman and five members
Beau Bassin and Rose Hill	Ordinance No. 31 of 1895	Chairman and seven members
Quatre Bornes	Ordinance No. 32 of 1895	Chairman and five members

All the members are nominated annually by the Governor.

A start in rural government was made in October, 1946, by the appointment of a Civil Commissioner for the south of the island. In May, 1947, a second one was appointed for the northern districts of Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart with a population of some 67,000 inhabitants and provision has also been made for the appointment of a third Civil Commissioner for the central districts.

Forty village councils have so far been constituted in the rural districts. They are still in their infancy and it is as yet difficult to gauge the actual success achieved by them. There is evidence, however, that the majority of these councils appreciate their responsibilities and are beginning to be recognised by the local population as their link with Government. Their legal status is still under consideration and the emphasis meanwhile is on spontaneous rather than officially stimulated development.

Mr. Swinden, an expert on local government, visited Mauritius in 1945, as Chairman of a Commission to enquire into the conditions of pay and service of the Mauritius Civil Service. He was also asked to investigate and report on local government. His report which deals with the Municipality of Port Louis, the township boards and rural government was referred to a Select Committee by the Governor in April, 1946. The Select Committee's report was submitted in April, 1947, and a debate on it was begun in July, adjourned until October and again adjourned until the Governor's return to the Colony.

The administration of justice rests with the Supreme Court and District Courts. The jurisdiction of the latter is vested in a magistrate who deals with most of the criminal matters and is empowered to sentence an accused party to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for one

year, and to payment of a fine not exceeding one thousand rupees. Certain offences can only be tried by an intermediary court consisting of a bench of three magistrates who can sentence to penal servitude for three years and to payment of a fine not exceeding three thousand rupees.

Other offences, such as murder, manslaughter, arson and rape, must be tried by the Assize Court where one of the judges of the Supreme Court presides, the verdict being returned by a jury of nine men; the decision must be that of at least seven out of the nine members.

In the case of offences triable at the Assize Court a preliminary enquiry is first held by a magistrate who commits the accused to stand trial.

Magistrates also have jurisdiction in civil cases when the subject matter does not exceed one thousand rupees in value. They hold judicial enquiries in the case of violent or accidental death or of fire. In addition they deal with certain matters in chambers.

The Supreme Court is composed of a Chief Justice, two Puisne Judges and the Master and Registrar who is also the Judge in Bankruptcy. This Court deals with civil cases when the subject matter exceeds one thousand rupees in value. The judges also preside over the Assize Court the jurisdiction of which has already been outlined.

The Supreme Court has original jurisdiction in divorce and judicial separation and decides on certain questions submitted to it by way of motion. It is the Appellate Court for decisions given by magistrates.

An appeal lies to the Privy Council from decisions of the Supreme Court involving a pecuniary interest of ten thousand rupees or more. The Privy Council can also accede to a petition for appeal in other matters.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Central Administration was strengthened in 1947 by the addition of a Public Relations branch as part of the permanent machinery of Government. Public relations in Mauritius had begun as early as 1942 when an Education Officer was seconded for this purpose to the war-time Censorship and Information Department. Shortly after the conclusion of hostilities the decision was taken to retain the purely public relations aspects of the department and to separate them as speedily as possible from the propaganda activities of the Information Office. The officer seconded for Public Relations work visited the United Kingdom in 1946 and had conversations with the Information department of the Colonial Office, the Central Office of Information, British Council, British Broadcasting Corporation and other organisations concerned with publicity matters. He returned to the Colony in February, 1947, and assumed control of the Public Relations Office.

This new department consists of a head office in Port Louis, concerned with the preparation and issue of local government publicity and with the distribution of publicity material received from Great Britain and elsewhere. Its functions are twofold—to interpret the Government to the people and the people to the Government. It has also the further responsibility of publicising Mauritius to the outside world and of increasing local knowledge about and understanding of Great Britain

and the other territories that make up the British Commonwealth and Empire.

Close relations are maintained between the Public Relations Office and the local press. The latter, which is free to accept or refuse any material sent to it by the Public Relations Office, does in fact provide space generously for official communiques. Some of these are paid for but the majority are published free of charge. The office also distributes films to the local commercial cinemas and maintains a steady flow of books, periodicals and pamphlets to libraries, clubs, village councils and similar organisations.

Two illustrated papers are published and issued free monthly by the Public Relations Office:—*Savez-vous Que*, a bilingual publication in English and French for the general population and *Hindi Newsletter* in Hindustani for the Indo-Mauritian population. The circulation of each is 6,000. The office also issues pamphlets, booklets and posters on behalf of other Government departments. So far, these have dealt mostly with health and nutrition questions.

The Public Relations Officer controls the machinery for publicity, but is not solely responsible for the initiation of publicity. Every officer of Government is expected to be a public relations officer for his own department and to do everything within his power to improve the relations between his department and the public it serves.

The machinery referred to in the last paragraph includes the Mauritius Broadcasting Service, the Globe Reuter News Service and the Mobile Cinema Unit. A survey of the work of the Broadcasting Service has been given in Part II, Chapter 10. The News Service, which is housed in the same building as the Broadcasting Service, monitors Reuter's world news on a 24-hour basis and also takes part of the London Press Service morse transmissions. This monitored news is duplicated and distributed early each morning by the Government Railways. During 1947 the average daily distribution of these news sheets, of about 10 foolscap sides, amounted to 87 copies. Distribution is deliberately restricted, and numerous requests from individuals have had to be refused, as the policy governing distribution is to avoid even a semblance of competition with the commercial press. Reception of news was manual during 1947, but it is expected that there will be a change-over to the Hellschreiber system of automatic reception during 1948.

The Mobile Cinema Unit, a most valuable gift from the war-time Ministry of Information, is deservedly popular throughout Mauritius. Far more demands are received for visits of the Cinema than can be satisfied. In 1947 a regular itinerary was worked out for the northern and southern districts in consultation with the Civil Commissioners for these areas, and as soon as the third Civil Commissioner is appointed a similar itinerary will be prepared for the central districts which are now being served haphazardly. The Unit concentrates mainly on the remoter rural districts. People collect together from miles around wherever the Unit is booked to give a show, and audiences varying between 1,500 and 4,000 are common. Both sound and silent pictures are shown and

commentaries are given in French, Creole and Hindustani. The Commentator also gives brief talks over the microphone on malaria control, sanitation, food production and similar topics. A fairly comprehensive film library, the gift of the Central Office of Information and the British Council, is available both for Mobile Cinema Shows and for issue on loan to the Education Department, Military and individual possessors of 16-mm. projectors. The dependency of Rodrigues has been supplied with a 16-mm. silent projector and supplies of films are despatched on each shipping opportunity.

Last year the Mobile Cinema Unit gave a total of 240 shows, of which 207 were public shows and 33 were special (to medical audiences, for instance). These shows were attended by a grand total of 427,952—a figure arrived at from returns made by the Police Department.

Chapter 4 : Weights and Measures

The metric system is in general use in the island of Mauritius and the following French and local measures are still to be found :

Measures of Length and Area

1 ligne française	= 2,258 millimetres or 0.088 inch
12 lignes	= 1 French inch
12 French inches	= 1 French foot
1 French foot	= 1.06 English feet
1 lieu	= 2½ English miles (approximately)
1 gaulette	= 10 French feet
1 arpent	= 40,000 square French feet or 1.04 acres
1 toise	= 6 French feet or 2 yards 4 inches

Measures of Capacity

1 barrique	= 50 gallons (cane juice, etc.)
1 tiercon	= 190 to 192 litres (molasses)
1 velte	= 7.45 litres (coconut oil)
1 bouteille	= 800 cubic centimetres (liquid)
1 chopine	= ½ bouteille
1 corde	= 80 French cubic feet or 96.82 English cubic feet (firewood)

Measures of Weight

1 gamelle	= 5.250 Kilogrammes
1 livre	= 500 grammes or 1.10 English pounds

Weights, measures and scales are controlled by the Police throughout the Colony. The Central Board of the Agricultural Department is responsible for the control of weighbridges on sugar estates. Police control over weights and measures was to a certain extent relaxed during

the war years when the Police had to deal with multifarious war-time duties, but since 1944 vigorous action has been taken to control fraud.

The following gives an idea of the improvement in the work done :

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total Number of Weights, Measures and Scales seized and forfeited</i>						
1936	78
1937	54
1938	38
1939	97
1940	72
1941	72
1942	76
1943	40
1944	361
1945	515
1946	377
1947	649

The number of weights, measures, scales, etc., stamped by the Police every year average 20,000, and the amount of duty collected thereon is approximately Rs. 4,000.

Chapter 5 : Newspapers and Periodicals

Name	Proprietors or Publishers	Editor	Language	Remarks
DAILY NEWSPAPERS				
Cerneen-Mauricien-Advance	Cerneen Ltd., Hon. Raoul Rivet, The Mauritius Free Press Service Co., Ltd.	Hervé de Sornay Hon. Raoul Rivet	French	A combined paper published conjointly since April, 1942.
L'Œuvre	Dr. E. Millien	A. Beejadhur	French	
L'Après-Midi	Gaston Pierre	Dr. E. Millien	French	
La Vie Ouvrière.	Hon. Raoul Rivet	Gaston Pierre	French	
The New Era	H. K. Naudeer	Joseph Gerard	English	
Chinese Commercial Paper	Wong-Soo-Kiew	H. K. Naudeer	Chinese	
Chinese Daily News	Li-Pak-U	Wong-Soo-Kiew Li-Pak-U	Chinese	
WEEKLY PAPERS				
Jagriti-Arya-Vir	I. Moothien	Pandit Cashinath and Pandit Balam	English and Hindi	
Planters' Gazette	Hervé de Sornay	Hervé de Sornay	English and French	
La Vie Catholique	Union Catholique	Louis Hein	French	Religious.
MONTHLY—BI-MONTHLY				
Annales Catholiques	Union Catholique	—	French	Monthly, Roman Catholic.
The Breeders' News	The Mauritius Breeders' Club	H. de Sornay	English and French	Monthly, Animal, husbandry, farming, etc.
Church Magazine	Bishop of Mauritius	Bishop of Mauritius	English	Monthly, Church of England.
Messenger Mauricien	Adventist Church	E. Veuthey	French	Monthly, Seventh Day Adventist.
Revue de Marie	Mrs. Raoul Olivery	Mrs. Raoul Olivery	French	Monthly, Roman Catholic, Religious.
Essor	Cercle Littéraire de Port Louis	Arthur Martial	French	Bi-Monthly, Literary.
Revue Agricole de l'Île Maurice	Joint Board : Society of Chemists, Chamber of Agriculturists and Department of Agriculture	P. O. Wiehe	French and English	Bi-Monthly, Sugar Industry and Agricultural Science.

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS (contd.)

Name	Proprietors or Publishers	Editor	Language	Remarks
QUARTERLY				
<i>Cahiers Mauriciens</i>	• Société des Ecrivains Mauriciens	Clement Charoux	French	Quarterly, Literary.
<i>Diocesan Quarterly Magazine</i>	• Bishop of Mauritius	Bishop of Mauritius	English	Quarterly, Church of England.
<i>Indian Cultural Review</i>	• Indian Cultural Association	Dr. S. Ramgoolam	English and French	Quarterly, Indo-Mauritian Community (not appearing regularly).
<i>Indian League</i>	• Indian League	Indian League	English	Quarterly, Indian affairs, Indo-Mauritian Community (not appearing regularly).
<i>Mauritius Quarterly Directory</i>	• Mr. André Bax	Mr. A. Pitot	English	Quarterly, General information.
<i>Moslem Youth Bulletin</i>	• Moslem Youth Brigade	A. C. D. A. Raman	English and French	Quarterly, Organ of Moslem Youth Brigade.
ANNUAL				
<i>Calendrier du Diocese de Port Louis</i>	Union Catholique	—	French	Annual, Roman Catholic.
<i>Bulletin Annuel de la Société de l'Histoire de l'Ile Maurice</i>	Société de l'Histoire de l'Ile Maurice	The Secretary	English and French	Local History.
<i>Mauritius Institute Bulletin</i>	Mauritius Institute	Curitor and Librarian	French and English	Scientific, Papers on flora and fauna of Mascarenes.
<i>Misbahul Islam</i>	• Rajee Issa Issack	C. I. Archia	Urdu and Gujarati	Islam, Muslim Community.
<i>Revue Artistique</i>	• J. I. Tranquille	J. I. Tranquille	French	Irregular, Literary.
<i>Roshnee</i>	• Anjuman Hifazati	Ayooob Ayooob	English and French	Sociology, Muslim Community.

Chapter 6 : Bibliography

A new edition of the *Laws of Mauritius* has been prepared by His Honour Sir Charlton Lane, Chief Justice of Mauritius, and is being printed in England. The yearly publication of the *Mauritius (Law) Reports* by His Honour the Chief Justice was continued throughout the war and the editions from 1927 onwards are available at the Government Printing Office, Port Louis (Rs. 20 a volume). Publication of the *Mauritius Blue Book* has been resumed after a break in the series caused by the war, and the 1945 edition has just been issued. The issue of the editions for subsequent years is being speeded up so as to bring the publication up to date with the minimum delay.

The Crown Agents for the Colonies have published on behalf of the Government of Mauritius an interesting treatise, *Survey and Field Treatment of Malaria in Mauritius* by George Sippe, M.B., B.S., and May Twining, O.B.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. This publication is on sale at the Government Printing Office, Port Louis.

Appendix I to this Report gives a list of Development and Welfare publications issued by the Government of Mauritius. Appendix II lists government publications of general interest. A selection of books on Mauritius available from other sources are given in Appendix III and a list of out-of-print books, of interest to students of history or literature and copies of which may be available in libraries, is given in Appendix IV.

APPENDIX I

DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE

LIST OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

<i>Title</i>	<i>Date</i>
<i>Memorandum by the Governor (Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy, K.C.M.G.) on the Development and Welfare Organisation.</i>	1944
<i>Report on Health Conditions in Mauritius, by Dr. A. Rankine, M.C.</i>	1944
<i>Memorandum on the Colonial Development and Welfare Act and on Schemes already submitted.</i>	1945
<i>Progress Report No. 1.</i>	1945
<i>Inaugural Meeting of the Central Development and Welfare Committee.</i>	1945
<i>Milk Production and Distribution. Creameries and Ghee Refineries, Demonstration Poultry Farm. Lard Factory, 1944.</i>	1945
<i>Pine Plantations in Mauritius—Working Plan. Report by H. C. King.</i>	1945
<i>Co-operation in Mauritius—Report by W. K. H. Campbell, C.M.G.</i>	1945
<i>Statement of Financial Implications of Proposed Health and Education Services.</i>	1945
<i>Memorandum embodying Suggestions for financing the Proposed Health and Education Services.</i>	1945
<i>Education Services including Training College.</i>	1945
<i>A Scheme for a Teachers' Training College and attached Schools.</i>	1945
<i>Report on Sanitary Conditions affecting an Outbreak of Poliomyelitis in Mauritius, by Dr. Kenneth Martin and Mr. J. S. Stirten.</i>	1945
<i>Memorandum on Rehabilitation and Resettlement of Mauritian Ex-servicemen, by Major A. E. de Chazal, O.B.E., M.R.C.P., M.S., F.R.C.S.</i>	1945
<i>Irrigation Proposals.</i>	1945
<i>Mauritius Hemp Industry.</i>	1945
<i>Report on the Industrial Development Advisory Committee.</i>	1945
<i>Pine Plantations in Mauritius—Working Plan (Revision) by H. C. King.</i>	1945
<i>Memorandum by Dr. the Honourable A. E. de Chazal on Proposed Scheme for Improvement and Expansion of the Medical and Health Services in Mauritius.</i>	1946
<i>A Small Scale Experiment in the Use of D.D.T. in Mauritius by H. D. Tonking, R. Lavoipierre and C. M. Courtois.</i>	1946

APPENDIX II: GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

103

Title

Date

<i>An Essay on Housing, Urban and Rural Planning with Special Reference to Mauritius</i> , by R. Lavoipierre.	1946
<i>Report on a Visit to Trinidad, Louisiana and other Countries</i> , by P. O. Wiehe.	1946
<i>Report on Estate Housing, Slum Clearance and Town and Regional Planning in the Island of Mauritius</i> —First Report by P. M. Aldred.	1946
<i>Second Meeting of the Central Development and Welfare Committee.</i>	1946
<i>Revised Memorandum on Mauritius Development and Welfare Ten-Year-Plan.</i>	1946
<i>Report on the Tea Industry of Mauritius</i> by Captain E. G. B. de Mowbray, C.B.E., R.N. (retd.).	1946
<i>Milk Production and Distribution: Steps to implement Recommendations of the 1944 Report by a Subcommittee of the Mauritius Breeders' Club.</i>	1946
<i>Report on the Possibilities of Compositing Urban Refuse in Mauritius.</i>	1946
<i>Progress Report No. 3.</i>	1947
<i>Mauritius Development and Welfare Ten-Year Plan.</i> Estimates for 1947-48 as passed by the Council of Government on 8th July, 1947.	1947
<i>Report on the Engineering Aspect of the Sewage Disposal of Plaines Wilhems District and on the existing and proposed Filtration Plants connected with Domestic Water Supply.</i>	1947
<i>Use of D.D.T. residual Sprays in Control of Malaria over an Area of 16 Sq. Miles in Mauritius.</i>	1947
<i>Report on an Investigation into the Possibility of cultivating Tung Oil Trees in Mauritius.</i>	1947
<i>Social Planning and Welfare</i> by L. Silberman.	1947

APPENDIX II

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS OF
GENERAL INTEREST

(On sale at the Government Printing Office, Port Louis)

Title	Rs. C.
<i>Blue Book for 1945.</i>	7.50
<i>Census in Mauritius, 1944, Final Report on</i> —M. Koenig.	5.00
<i>Civil Service Commission 1945, Report of the</i> —(per set of 3 vols.).	15.00
<i>Commission of Enquiry into Unrest on Sugar Estates in Mauritius, 1937, Report of.</i>	5.00

Title	Rs. C.
<i>Commission of Enquiry into the Disturbances which occurred in the North of Mauritius in 1943, Report of.</i>	2.50
<i>Commission of Enquiry in General Position and Operations in Insurance Companies in Mauritius, 1939.</i>	1.00
<i>Companies Laws (1910 to 1920).</i>	3.00
<i>Defence Regulations.</i>	5.00
<i>Digest of the Decisions of the Supreme Court of Mauritius, 1926-1943.</i>	50.00
<i>Estimates, 1947-48.</i>	5.50
<i>Financial Regulations—General Orders, Part II.</i>	1.00
<i>A School Geography of Mauritius (1945)—R. H. Ardill.</i>	1.00
<i>Guide Elementaire d'Accouchement (3eme Edition).</i>	2.50
<i>Irrigation and Hydro-Electric Resources in Mauritius, 1940—Sir Bede Clifford.</i>	30.00
<i>Itinerary of Roads in Mauritius with map (1925)—F. M. Desbleds.</i>	7.50
<i>Indigenous Species in Mauritius, Interim Report on—H. C. King.</i>	0.50
<i>Leave and Passage Regulations—General Orders, Part IV.</i>	0.50
<i>Malaria, Prevention of, 1908—Ronald Ross.</i>	2.00
<i>Mare aux Vacoas, Notes on—Harriot.</i>	1.00
<i>Meat and Milk Commission, 1942, Report of the.</i>	1.00
<i>Medical and Sanitary Matters, Report on Dr. Balfour.</i>	15.00
<i>Nutritional Investigations in Mauritius (Final Report), 1942-45.</i>	1.00
<i>Rail, Road, Harbour and Lighterage Commission, 1940—Report of.</i>	0.60
<i>Ready Reckoner—Captain North-Coombes and A. d'Emmerez de Charmoy.</i>	1.00
<i>Revision of the Constitution—Correspondence with the Secretary of State for the Colonies.</i>	0.25
<i>Survey and Field Treatment of Malaria in Mauritius—George Sippe, M.B., B.S., and May' Twining, O.B.E., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (published by Crown Agents).</i>	16.67
<i>Trade Unionism in Mauritius—Ken Baker.</i>	1.00
<i>Trade Unionism—K. Baker.</i>	0.25
<i>Two talks given on the Mauritius Broadcasting Service by Professor Thornton-White and Mr. Leo Silberman, Town Planning Experts.</i>	0.10
<i>Water Supply, Report on, 1922—Mansergh.</i>	2.00

APPENDIX III

BOOKS ON MAURITIUS PUBLISHED BY NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS

Title	Publishers or Agents for Sale	Price
<i>Port Louis—Deux Siecles d'Histoire 1735-1935</i> (1936) by A. Toussaint.	The author, Curepipe, Mauritius.	1st edition, Rs. 25. 2nd edition, Rs. 8.
<i>L'île d'Aigle—Naufrage de la barque Diego</i> (1936) by Fr. Dussercle.	The General Printing Stationery Co., Ltd., Port Louis, Mauritius.	Rs. 2.50
<i>La Pluie à l'île Maurice</i> (1935) by Marc Herchenroder.	ditto	Rs. 8.00
<i>La Canne à Sucre à l'île Maurice</i> (1920) by P. de Sornay.	ditto	Rs. 10.00
<i>The Evolution of Sugar Cane Culture in Mauritius</i> (1937) by A. North-Coombes.	ditto	Rs. 8.00
<i>Mauritius and the War</i> (1940) by the Indian Cultural Association.	ditto	Rs. 5.00
<i>Graines de Sables</i> (1946) by Georges Pitot (an account of Mauritius troops in the Middle East).	ditto	Rs. 2.50
<i>L'île Maurice : Guide Illustré</i> (1936) by C. Charoux,	ditto	Rs. 1.50
<i>Mauritius Almanach and Commercial Handbook</i> (1941) by A. Bax.	ditto	Rs. 10.00
<i>Escalade aux Pamplemousses</i> (1947) by Clement Charoux.	ditto	Rs. 3.00
<i>Genealogie de Daruty de Grandpré.</i>	ditto	—
<i>Le Diocese de Port Louis</i> (1947) by Mgr. J. Momet.	ditto	Rs. 6.00
<i>Guide Pratique et Moderne du Petit Eleveur Mauricien</i> (1945) by Dr. J. Maingard, A. Darne and Capt. F. Wilson.	The Standard Printing Establishment, Port Louis, Mauritius.	Rs. 5.00
<i>The Grasses of Mauritius and Rodrigues</i> (1940) by C. E. Hubbard and R. E. Vaughan.	Crown Agents for the Colonies.	4s. 6d.

Note : Publication date is given in brackets after title of work.

MAPS OF MAURITIUS

<i>Map of Mauritius</i> (quarter inch to mile).	The General Printing Stationery Co., Ltd.	Rs. 0.25
<i>Ordnance Survey Map</i> (Six sheets : one inch to mile).	E. Stanford, Ltd., London.	15s. 0d.
<i>The Mauritius Atlas.</i>	Collins-Longman, London.	3s. 6d.

APPENDIX IV

OUT-OF-PRINT BOOKS ON MAURITIUS

Title	Subject Matter
<i>T'Eylandt Mauritius</i> , 1698-1710 by Albert Pitot.	History of Dutch occupation of Mauritius.
<i>L'Ile de France</i> , 1715-1810 (Esquisses Historiques) by Albert Pitot.	History of French occupation of Mauritius.
<i>L'Ile Maurice</i> , 1810-1833 (3 volumes) by Albert Pitot	Early days of British occupation.
<i>The History of Mauritius or the Isle of France</i> (London, 1801) by Charles Grant, Viscount de Vaux.	As indicated in title.
<i>Views in the Mauritius</i> (London, 1837) by T. Bradshaw and William Rider.	As indicated in title.
<i>Subtropical Rambles in the land of the Aphanapteryx</i> (London, 1873) by Nicolas Pike.	Botanical. (?)
<i>Mauritius, Records of Private and of Public Life</i> 1871-1874, 2 volumes (Edinburgh, 1894, privately printed) by Lord Stanmore.	Autobiography.
<i>Le Patois Creole Mauricien</i> (Mauritius, 1880) by Charles Baissac.	Standard book on Creole patois, with parallel French text.
<i>Le Folk-lore Mauricien</i> (Maison-neuve, Paris, 1888) by Charles Baissac.	As indicated in title.
<i>Statistiques de l'Ile Maurice et ses Dependences</i> , 3 volumes (Mauritius, 1886) by Baron d'Unienville.	Statistical reference book.
<i>Renseignements pour servir a l'histoire de l'Ile de France et ses Dependences</i> (Mauritius, 1890) by Adrien d'Epinay.	Historical background notes.
<i>Ile de France—Documents pour son Histoire Civil et Militaire</i> (Mauritius, 1925) by Saint Elme le Duc.	
<i>Mauritius Illustrated</i> (London, 1914) by A. Macmillan.	A very comprehensive illustrated guide to Mauritius.
<i>L'Ile Maurice</i> (Mauritius, 1921) by W. Edward Hart.	
<i>Island of Mauritius</i> (Mauritius, 1928) by Raymond Philogene.	
<i>Sea Fights and Corsaires of the Indian Ocean</i> (Mauritius, 1934) by H. C. M. Austen, C.B.E.	An illustrated account of the activities of the French corsairs based on Mauritius.

Title	Subject Matter
<i>Financial situation of Mauritius ; Report of a Commission appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, December, 1931.</i> <i>The Island of Rodriguez</i> (London, 1923) by A. J. Bertuchi.	As indicated in title.
<i>Dans les " Ziles la Haut ", Archipel de Chagos</i> (Mauritius, 1937) by Fr. Dussercle.	Literary essays on life in the Chagos group of dependencies.
<i>Flora of Mauritius and the Seychelles</i> (London, 1877) by J. G. Baker.	As indicated in title.
<i>The Sugar Industry of Mauritius</i> (London, 1910) by A. Walter.	As indicated in title.

OVERSEA EDUCATION

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF
EDUCATIONAL EXPERIMENT
AND RESEARCH IN TROPICAL
AND SUBTROPICAL AREAS

EACH issue contains articles and notes on the
fascinating educational problems which are being
solved by British teachers in the tropics, with
reviews of new publications.

Four pages of illustrations are in-
cluded in each number.

ONE SHILLING PER COPY (*by post 1s. 2d.*)
Annual Subscription 4s. including postage



Obtainable from
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE

*at the addresses on cover page 3 or
through any bookseller*

COLONIAL ANNUAL REPORTS

ADEN	GIBRALTAR	ST. LUCIA
BAHAMAS	GOLD COAST	ST. VINCENT
BARBADOS	GRENADA	SARAWAK
BASUTOLAND	HONG KONG	SEYCHELLES
BECHUANALAND	JAMAICA	SIERRA LEONE
BERMUDA	KENYA	SINGAPORE
BRITISH GUIANA	LEEWARD IS.	SWAZILAND
BR. HONDURAS	MAURITIUS	TONGA
BRUNEI	FEDERATION	TRINIDAD
CAYMAN ISLANDS	OF MALAYA	TURKS AND
CYPRUS	NIGERIA	CAICOS IS.
DOMINICA	NORTH BORNEO	UGANDA
FALKLAND IS.	NORTHERN	WESTERN
FIJI	RHODESIA	PACIFIC
GAMBIA	NYASALAND	ZANZIBAR
	ST. HELENA	

A standing order for selected Reports or for the complete series will be accepted by any one of the Sales Offices of H.M. Stationery Office at the following addresses : York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2 (Post Orders : P.O. Box 569, London, S.E.1); 13a Castle Street, Edinburgh, 2; 39 King Street, Manchester, 2; 2 Edmund Street, Birmingham 3; 1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff; Tower Lane, Bristol, 1; 80 Chichester Street, Belfast.

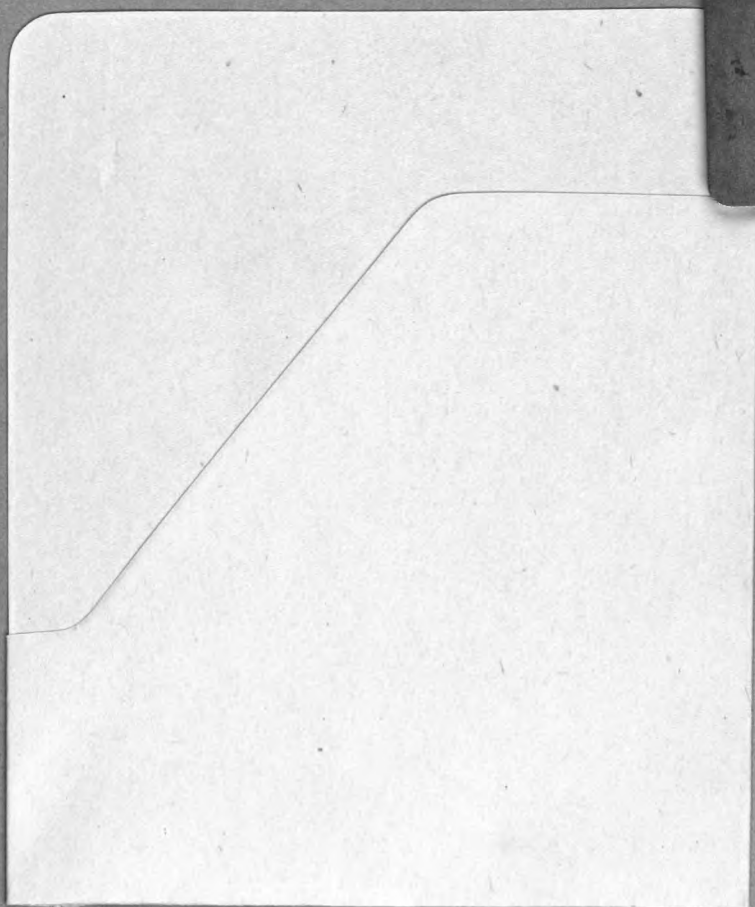
A deposit of £4 (four pounds) should accompany standing orders for the complete series.

ORDERS MAY ALSO BE PLACED THROUGH ANY BOOKSELLER



**PHOTOMOUNT
PAMPHLET BINDER**

Manufactured by
GAYLORD BROS. Inc.
Syracuse, N. Y.
Stockton, Calif.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

wils 1947

316.982 G798

Great Britain. Commonwealth Office.

Mauritius.



3 1951 001 881 192 X

Minnesota Library Access Center



9 ZA R02 D09 S03 TL W